**BUSINESS** / B1
**RP's tallest building** at 66 stories to rise in Global City

**ENTERTAINMENT** / E1
**Tourism student** 'Pinoy Pop Superstar' champion

**NEWS** / A3
**Arms, aid beat** terrorists, Ebdane tells Singapore meet

**SPORTS** / A34
**Cavs reach NBA** finals for first time in franchise history

**Mindanao may win it for Zubiri, Recto–TU**

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Christine O. Avendaño

MORE THAN IN THE PERMUTATIONAL RACE, the administration's Team Unity (TU) is gaining its hope on two fronts—a brilliant campaign performance in Mindanao that boost of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Ralph Recto into the Magic 12.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
# INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, June 4, 2007 ★★ Vol. 22 / No. 176 www.inquirer.net

**Shark fin won't help fight cancer, but ginseng will**

CHICAGO—Shark fin soup might taste good. But it won't do much for cancer.

Shark cartilage, a folk remedy used almost everywhere for cancer, did not help patients with lung cancer or breast cancer, according to

# Education crisis deepens

## DepEd gets into heart of systems breakdown

By Fernando del Mundo
Inquirer News Service

THE OFFICIAL FIGURES remain grim as some 20 million students troop back to classrooms today at the opening of the new school year.

Out of 10 students entering Grade 1, only 6 will complete the elementary course. Four will get through high school and two will make college, according to the Department of Education.

"We do not know if the two who will make college will get a degree in years to job," says Dina Ocampo, deputy director of the DepEd's Bureau of Elementary Education in charge of the Philippines.

Problems bedevilling the Philippine education system had been festering for the past three decades before officials agreed they had reached a critical stage. The analogy is made of a frog placed in a kettle of water that is put to a boil. The frog will not know it is about to be boiled.

Experts both in and out of government say there are no quick fixes to the nation's education woes. A band-aid approach, which is essentially what's in place will not do.

"The situation remains dismal," says former Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad. He says the country is unanimous in the very fundamental problems of access, a high dropout rate and a very low-reading proficiency.

"Half of the country's entire population is not even in school," he says.

Abad recalls a national test on reading given to about a million Grade-6 students in 2003. He says it showed that a 60 percent of those who took the test were one

PAST FACTS

BASIC EDUCATION

- Grossmarket receipts, schools: ₱1,725
- Officials' basket from ₱35,000
- Personnel in attendance
  - Number of students: 19 M M
  - 19 M M attendance
  - 6.4M high school
  - Total no. of classrooms: 111,000
  - Total no. in class: 18 M M
  - Total no. of teachers: 99,99 M
- Net Enrollment Rate
  - 7.2M elementary
  - 7.2M high school
- School-leaving IDs in Grade 1,000
- Classroom-student ratio: 1:1,240
- Unmet homeless/student-teacher ratio/per
  - 91,000 classrooms
  - 4,000 classrooms
  - 2.4 M books
  - 19 M books
- 80% teenagers without basic school
- 4 books/student/school/light to have
- ₱ Grade school: ₱ 2,500

HIGHER EDUCATION

- 1,247 [illegible]
- 662 [illegible]
- 4,000,000 [illegible]

**HOPEFUL.** Eight-year-old Gaby Estero eagerly looks for her name on the Grade 2 list at the Bea Jocson Elementary School in Mandaluyong, Quezon City.

-TEAM Report
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

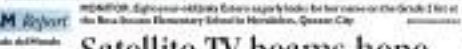
## Satellite TV beams hope

By Margaux C. Deriy

THE HIGHER HAY YET PRO-vide the miracle to save Philippine education from its death throes.

It could come via satellite if schools are appropriately equipped with television sets, experts say.

Knowledge Channel, acting for



holders of ABS-CBN and Skycable, has been bringing to classrooms from Aparri to Zamboanga basic learning skills designed to improve the quality of education and level the learning and knowledge fields.

Joe A. Mercal, Knowledge Channel's executive vice president for operations, says that in boosting—Philippine Business and Cable Television—thought of using the core competencies of the Lopez group, which runs one of the nation's largest television networks, to the public good.

"With satellite broadcasting going on ABS-CBN and Skycable, the biggest cable distributor in the country, Mr. Jimenez and Mr. Lopez both received a unanimous

SEE FACTS, A12

## Plot to destroy JFK airport foiled; 3 held

NEW YORK—FEDERAL AUTHORITIES say they have broken up an armed Muslim terrorist cell planning a "chilling" attack to destroy John F. Kennedy International Airport, kill thousands of people and trigger an economic catastrophe by blowing up a jet fuel artery that runs through populous residential neighborhoods.

Three men, including a former member of parliament in Guyana, were arrested and one was being sought in Trinidad as part of a joint effort authorities said they had been working for more than a year and was foiled in the planning stages.

"The devastation that would be caused had this plot succeeded is just unthinkable," US Attorney Roslyn R. Mauskopf said at a news conference on Saturday, calling it "one of the most chilling plots imaginable."

In an additional charging the four men, one of them is quoted as saying the failed plot would "cause greater destruction than the Sept. 11 attacks," destroying the airport, killing several thousand people and shocking parts of New York's borough of Queens, which for the first time underground.

One of the suspects, Russell

**Nipped in the bud**

Authorities charged four people Saturday with planning to set off explosions at a fuel tank that feeds John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Defendants, a US citizen native to the South American country of Guyana and a former JFK air cargo employee, said the airport carried of the state president was targeted because it was a symbol that would put "the whole country in turmoil."

"It's like you can kill the man twice," said Defendant, 61, who fled his bail to flee to escape Guyana.

PAGE A28

## Filipinos cheer as Pope names 4 new saints

By Julius Ludwig Jimenez

ROSE OF LIMA FLIES—HOT ONE OF the Catholic Church's four new saints, two from the Philippines, but Filipinos, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo and "miracle child" Kim Bondoc, is eyeing it to St. Peter's Square and cheered for Mother Engracia and the three others who were canonized yesterday in more than 1,000 simultaneous rites led by Pope Benedict XVI.

At the start of Mass on the Feast of the Holy Trinity, Benedict declared as new saints Marie Eugenie Milleret de Brou, the French founder of the Religious of the Assumption, Gaspar Percy from Malta, Germany's Laurent from Poland, and Karol von Sinn Sardina Hoden from Ireland.

Their names were inscribed in the roster as the 482nd to 485th saints created by the Catholic Church.

Some 40,000 people, who turned St. Peter's Square into a sea of umbrellas on a cold, rainy morning, cheered each time the Pope intoned the names of the new saints.

The Italian choirs were given to Mario Eugenio by some 6,000 people represented by the Religious of the Assumption order from around the world. Some 1,500 Filipinos were in this group.

FILIPINOS, A12

## Cebu produces graduates for IT firms

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TALK TO COMPANIES AROUND the country and you will hear the same complaint: Colleges and universities are not producing enough of the type of graduates they need to take their organizations to the next level.

There is no problem about the quantity, but there definitely is something wrong with quality.

In Cebu City, however, companies like these are becoming more and more fond, especially among the companies in the information and communication technology sector.

This is mainly due to the Cebu Educational Development Foundation for Information Technology (CEDF-IT), which has brought

**PRESIDENT** Macapagal-Arroyo is welcomed by the Vatican's top foreign ministry official at the airport in Rome.

## Australia now major player in RP security

By Amanda Dorado

BY A CORROBORANCE OF THE Southeast Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed by the Philippines and Australia during the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Canberra last week, Australian soldiers would be holding joint military exercises with their Filipino counterparts next year to enhance the latter's capacity to combat terrorist groups mainly in Mindanao.

Mr. Arroyo said the SOFA was signed "in a time of uncertainty in the world," underscoring her attempt to convert foreign policy into an asset to compensate for the ensuing domestic political rebuff she received in the 14 May elections.

**ANALYSIS**

6-0-1 result in the Senate election in favor of the opposition.

Mr. Arroyo conceded defeat, but not in unqualified, on the last day of the vote, in a speech at the Iwahig Penal Colony in Puerto Princesa. She said the elections had "demonstrated our political maturity." The "message of the elections was that the Philippine economy is stable and strong."

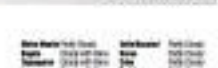
The SOFA will soon face its first challenge in the new opposition majority in the Senate when the agreement is submitted for ratification. This would require two-thirds or 16 votes in a foreign policy issue in the new Congress.

The SOFA stands out in the highlight of Mr. Arroyo's visit. Iraq

Second FRONTPAGE

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon and Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.



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# Palace urges appeal of SC ruling freeing Ka Bel et al.

By Christine O. Avendaño and Leila B. Salaverria

MALACAÑANG IS BACKING THE MOVE TO APPEAL the Supreme Court decision that junked the government's rebellion case against labor Rep. Crispin Beltran and five other militant party-list lawmakers.

From Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday that Malacañang respected and would fully abide by the Supreme Court ruling but supported the move of the Solicitor General to appeal it "because of its adverse effect on law enforcement."

"[It is well within the rights of the Solicitor General as the statutory counsel of the national government to file this Motion for Reconsideration," Bunye said in a statement.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told reporters yesterday the decision is like a motion for reconsideration was reached Friday night during a security cluster meeting, and the consensus was approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo. He said he then directed Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera to file the appeal.

"Personally, I don't think the Supreme Court will reverse itself. I'm not optimistic considering who wrote the decision," Gonzalez said.

Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who penned the decision refusing the dropping of rebellion charges against Beltran and the "Batasan 7"—party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza, Joel Virador, Teodoro Casiño and Rafael Mariano—also wrote the decision that last year dismissing the bid for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution, which was described as a "grand disruption."

Transparency International had earlier hailed the Supreme Court for not tolerating "executive encroachments on the judiciary" (See related story at right.)

In the government's motion for reconsideration, Devanadera argued that the Supreme Court decision had "far-reaching and adverse consequences on the criminal justice system."

But the decision undermined the trial courts' and prosecutors' prerogative to determine probable cause against respondents.

"Nobody will be charged anymore, even if you find 1,000 grounds in Scene, there will be no case. Because first they will be the imagination of the 2012," Gonzalez had said on Friday.

Gonzalez also said there was "nothing surprising" about the statement of Transparency International praising the high tribunal for its decision that rebuked several of the administration's directives.

"Everytime something is done against the government, they [it] say it," he said.

"Why would I be surprised? They are just aiming for whoever is the in the government. Everybody's looking for a chance to embarrass the government, like this Joma," he said.

In his decision, the high court had rebuked Gonzalez for prejudging the case and bringing political bias into justice system.

"We cannot emphasize too strongly that prosecution should not allow, and should avoid, giving the impression that their noble office is being used or positioned, wittingly or unwittingly, for political ends ... Only by strict adherence to the established procedure may the public's perception of the impartiality of the prosecutor be enhanced," the court said, quoting an earlier ruling on a graft case filed by Estrada against opposition figure.

Meanwhile, despite the court's Friday ruling, 19-year-old Beltran still spent the weekend in detention at the Philippine Heart Center.

The Philippine National Police said yesterday it would release Beltran as soon as the lawyers of the detained rebels showed them a release order from the courts.

Renato Reyes, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said Beltran's lawyers and supporters would go to the Makati City Regional Trial Court San Jose Mendez to secure the release order.

Beltran is expected to proceed in the afternoon to the Batasang Pambansa to attend the special four-day Congress session ... after 15 months in detention.

# Transparency Int'l got Supreme Court rulings all wrong, says Palace

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DISputed Transparency International's report that the Supreme Court had violated the executive branch of the government when the high court struck down three administration Palace measures.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's political adviser Gilberto Teodoro said Tilanda's "wrong assumptions" of the details of the Supreme Court rulings, pointing out the court did "not unreasonably" repudiate the executive on three.

"The Transparency International report, unwittingly and unfair representation of the relationship between the executive branch and the Supreme Court," Claudio said.

On Saturday, TI hailed the Supreme Court for handing up against "executive encroachment on the judiciary" by striking down Executive Order No. 464, the oft-hated preemptive "inquiries (QPL) policy and Proclamation No. 1017.

Claudio reiterated that the Palace position that the high court "actually upheld 'significant aspects and purview' of EO 464, the QPL policy and Proclamation 1017.

"There is no pattern of executive encroachment on the judiciary as a pattern of judicial subjugation of the executive on such issues," he said.

Claudio said that looking at EO 464, the high court not only upheld the oversight powers of Congress but also upheld the executive's right to invoke executive privilege when Cabinet members are asked to attend congressional hearings.

He noted that the high court "even provided the guidelines by which such privilege could be invoked."

In terms his point, Claudio said that because of this ruling, the government won the "Gadani case," referring to Marine Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, one of the generals who were asked to testify in the "Hello Garci" scandal.

He said the high court ruled that "the rights of the members of the military or words in congressional hearings are subject to the authority of the military by their Commander in Chief."

On Proclamation 1017, Claudio said that while the SC upheld the right and duty of the President to defend the security and integrity of the State through the declaration of a state of emergency it did not rule some of the government's actions in complementing the same.

On QPL, Claudio said "the government lauded the decision of the SC because it reiterated the validity and importance of PD 806 which provides for the policy of unannounced

# Arms, aid defeated terrorists–Ebdane

SINGAPORE—A COMBINATION OF MILITARY action and development projects is key to defeating the global threat from terrorism, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said Monday, citing the Philippines' experience against the Al Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf group.

Mindful of community dialogue, medical assistance and infrastructure projects in Jolo, where poverty and decades of government neglect had fed the rise of the Abu Sayyaf and a broader separatist rebellion, underpinned military operations that led to the killing of the group's top leaders, Ebdane said.

"The world witnessed the fall of the relatively known of the Abu Sayyaf group to several military encounters," Ebdane said in an address to the Shangri-la Dialogue, a meeting of regional defense chiefs in Singapore.

"What the world did not see were the operations that applied the combination of hard and soft approaches to addressing terrorism," he said.

Ebdane said developmental projects carried out parallel with military operations improved the level of trust between the government and local communities, constricting the [illegible] operations of the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo.

"The critical task succeeds on the confidence of the people emerged in conflict-in Jolo. Intelligence-led civil-military operations and humanitarian assistance projects were undertaken to address the roots of the conflict," Ebdane said.

Local communities provided troops with information on the whereabouts of the militants, leading to the killing and arrest of their top leaders, Ebdane said.

The military launched a major offensive last August on Jolo. It targeted leaders of the Abu Sayyaf and another group, Jemaah Islamiyah, who together have been blamed for attacks including a bomb blast on a ferry in Manila Bay in 2004 that killed 116 people.

Ebdane said the killing last year of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadafy Janjalani during a gun battle with troops on Jolo had caught the world's attention.

Another top Abu Sayyaf leader, Abu Sulaimat, was killed by government troops earlier this year.

"It is this combination of developmental and military tools that led to the killing of key leaders," Ebdane said.

In his speech, Ebdane did not mention the key role played by US forces in providing training and high-technology surveillance equipment to the Filipino troops.

Washington has funded roads, schools and other civic projects on Jolo, and the US military has helped train and arm [illegible] Philippine forces and often flies Filipino spy planes to help track insurgents hiding in Jolo's jungles.

The battle setbacks have driven more than 300 Abu Sayyaf remnants, split into at least six factions, deeper into the jungle.

Two of Southeast Asia's most wanted suspects, Indonesian nationals Dulmatin and Umar Patek, are believed to be in Mindanao where they are being sheltered by Abu Sayyaf, officials have said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said on a panel discussion at the conference on Saturday that the latest offensive against the Abu Sayyaf had "decentralized its command and control structure." It also cut the militant group's membership to 400 from an estimated 1,270 to 1,000, said Esperon, who added that US military assistance was also important.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines has now seized the initiative, denying the Abu Sayyaf group sanctuary and disrupting their recruitment, training and planning efforts," he said.

Because it has been "effectively weakened," the Abu Sayyaf was not able to launch attacks during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit in Cebu City on January, Esperon said. AFP

# 'Asia sea security a must'

SINGAPORE—JAPAN AND INDIA are set to play a major role in the maritime security of Southeast Asia, and there is a "tremendous" need for the region to develop a strong military relationship with them, a top Indonesian official said Sunday.

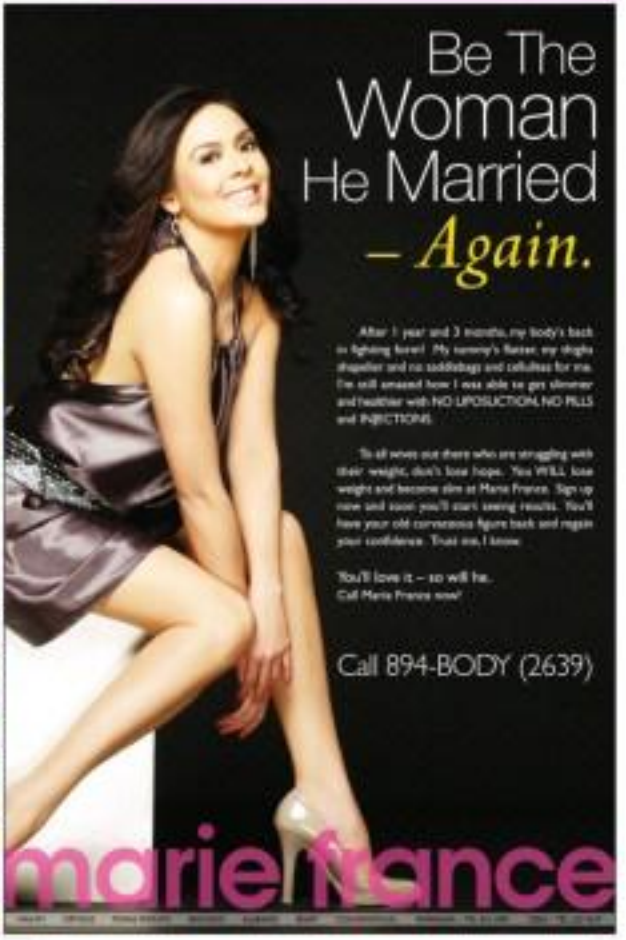
Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono told a regional defense conference the United States remained the main security provider for the region, a transit point for ships carrying oil and other goods from the Middle East to Southeast Asia.

The ships pass through the key Malacca Straits through which about 50 percent of all global trade and half the world's oil is [illegible]. The countries straddling the straits—Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore—as well as the Philippines and Thailand have traditionally depended on the US to ensure their maritime security.

"But with the rise of Japan and China as economic powerhouses, there is a tremendous need to recognize that these two major countries will also want to contribute [illegible] the security of the region, Sudarsono said.

Sudarsono noted that the economies of the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) were closely linked to those of China, Japan and South Korea.

Therefore, "there is a tremendous interest for us in Southeast Asia to link up and provide some degree of comfort level, a confidence-[illegible] relationship between the armed forces of the Southeast Asian countries and Northeastern Asia," Sudarsono said. AP



**Corrections**

IN THE MAY 30 ISSUE, a front-page article—"Trolling of Muslim texts at Israel women protested"—misstated the name and position of one of the Muslim leaders cited in the article. The Muslim leader's name is Mohammad Batool Sulaiman—not Mohammad Sulaiman. He is the undersecretary for student Muslim schools of the Department of Education in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao—not the head of the Ulama Congress of the Philippines.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 2 issue, the caption of a front-page photo misspelled the brand name of the Hip-Hop duo Sweetnes Shevanged Inyour—not sweating during her stint in Cebu today. The correct spelling of the band members' first names—and surnames.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to The Readers' Representative, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Makati Avenue corner Africa St. (P.O. Box 4494), Makati City, 1263, e-mail address: inq@inq.net.ph

# Shark fin won't help fight cancer, but ginseng will

From page A1

the results of one of the first rigorous studies of the approach.

But were smaller studies showed some preliminary but encouraging evidence that two other complementary therapies—ginseng and turmeric—might have some benefit for cancer patients.

US researchers reported that ginseng helped relieve the fatigue that cancer patients often feel while thousand showed the growth of prostate tumors in mice.

The studies were presented on Saturday here at the annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Oncology, where the nation's cancer doctors gather to discuss the latest in clinical therapy and news from oncology drugs.

It is relatively unusual for this meeting to highlight alternative therapies, but doctors here said that might be changing. They acknowledge that many of their patients are taking these supplements—widely available in health food stores—and asking them about them.

So, they said, well-designed clinical trials are needed to determine whether these approaches are helpful or harmful.

The shark cartilage clinical trial was mandated by the US Congress and was sponsored by the National Cancer Institute. It tested a shark cartilage extract being developed as a drug by Aetrena Pharma, a Canadian company.

The trial's lead investigator, Dr. Charles Lo of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, said there was reason to believe the cartilage might work.

Cartilage has been found to contain factors that can impede the formation of blood vessels. And cutting off the blood supply to tumors has already been proven effective with other drugs.

But in the trial, those who received the shark cartilage extract lived a median of 14.6 months, meaning that half the patients had died by that point. Those who got a placebo had a median survival of 13.6 months.

**More promising**

Results were somewhat more promising, though far from definitive, for Revastat—which is rich in omega-3 fatty acids and lignans, a fiber found in the seed coat.

That study led by scientists at Duke University Medical Center involved 161 men with prostate cancer who were scheduled to have their prostates removed. After the glands were removed about a month later, the tumors were studied.

It was found that the tumors of the men who had taken the flaxseed had been growing 30 percent to 40 percent more slowly than for those who did not.

The ginseng study suggested that the herb might help fight fatigue, which is common in people with cancer. The study involved 282 patients with various types of cancer.

About one quarter of the patients who took one of the two higher doses of powdered extract of ginseng were, after 1,000 or 2,000 milligrams a day, reported that their fatigue had lessened "moderately better" or "much better."

American spend between $30 billion and $47 billion a year on complementary and alternative therapies, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Reports from New York Times News Service and Reuters

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# DepEd integrates Muslim education in public schools

By Jerry E. Esplanada

TAWI-TAWI, SF NOT LONGER, UP foreign neglect have made tens of thousands of Muslim out-of-school youth (OSY) nationwide "likely targets for recruitment by both Islamic extremist groups and criminal elements," according to a report by the Department of Education.

But not anymore, asserted Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus.

In an unprecedented move, the DepEd has come up with a special Alternative Learning System (ALS) program for Muslim OSY, a majority of whom belong to the poorest of the poor and when a Congress report called the "lowest percentage for simple literacy of population."

Muslim OSY are "the product of extreme poverty and the continuing armed conflict in Mindanao. Their problems are the most urgent," pointed out Education Undersecretary Manuel Bernardo.

Bernardo, a native of Lanao del Sur, said that "unlike in the past, they are now accepted countrywide by the department."

In fact, Lapus has made the ALS program one cornerstone for "fully" Bernardo said the Islamic (Madrasah is the Arabic term for school.)

The program's main objectives are "to be able to positively contribute to the peace process between the government and our Muslim brothers and to improve the quality of their lives through education," said Bernardo in a memo to Lapus, who approved the initiative on March 23.

According to Bernardo, "The ALS program will first target Muslim OSY in urban areas because in five to 10 years, they may become part of the peace and order problem."

With a Congress-allocated budget of P100 million this year, the ambitious project will require at least P2 billion in the next four years.

The Libyan government has pledged at least P300 million worth of textbooks, to be supplied by local publishers.

The DepEd currently has 499 public schools nationwide implementing the Alter-Madrasah program, "mushrooming" in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao," which is supposedly autonomous, said Bernardo.


AN URGENT APPEAL TO OUR POLITICAL LEADERS:

## HEED THE PUBLIC SENTIMENT BEHIND THE VOTES. UNITE. MOVE FORWARD.

The elections are over. The Filipino people have spoken through their votes. And their votes reflect their true sentiments. **The Consumer and Oil Price Watch congratulates the Filipino people for their participation, vigilance and outspokenness in crucial political issues that will affect our lives : from Charter Change, a unicameral system of government and finally the last elections.**

### THE PEOPLES' SOVEREIGN WILL MUST BE ACCEPTED AND RESPECTED

The results of the elections reflect **the people's desire for a system of check and balance.** This now exists. The House of Representatives is controlled by the Administration while the Senate is controlled by the Opposition.

This balance will work for the greater good of the people and business since **measures such as the national budget, revenues and taxes that originate from the House of Representatives can now be analyzed, checked and refined by the Senate.**

### TO OUR SENATORS-ELECT

Now more than ever, the country needs your statesmanship, and progressive and independent-mindedness.

COPW challenges our senators elect to tackle urgent and important reform measures, especially those economic in nature, with intellectual integrity and non partisan objectivity.

*IT IS THE PEOPLE'S DESIRE THAT YOU FISCALIZE WITHOUT BEING OBSTRUCTIVE, LEGISLATE WITHOUT BEING DESTRUCTIVE.*

### TO THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

The country is on the verge of an economic boom which can be accelerated given the right policy environment and reforms, both economic and electoral, a number of which will need Congressional action. **Foremost is for Congress to pass measures to allocate new funds to modernize the electoral system.**

*COPW URGES CONGRESS TO PASS PUNITIVE MEASURES TO MAKE ELECTORAL FRAUD AKIN TO ECONOMIC SABOTAGE AND SHOULD WARRANT SIMILAR PUNISHMENT.*

### TO THE PRESIDENT

**You have made economic reforms the hallmark of your presidency.**
And we are beginning to see the positive results of this advocacy.

**We ask you to make electoral reforms another hallmark and challenge for the remainder of your term.**

The trust and confidence of the Filipino people in our electoral process must be regained because this is a crucial key to national unity.

In this light, COPW asks the President to appoint more independent minded, fair and honest people to the Comelec.

We further urge the President to push for automation in the voting, counting and canvassing of votes.

*ECONOMIC AND ELECTORAL REFORMS ARE TWIN LEGACIES THAT THE PRESIDENT CAN LEAVE OUR PEOPLE EVEN AS WE LOOK TO THE 2010 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.*

### THE PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRES. THEY HAVE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT.

COPW appeals to the House of Representatives, the Senate and the President to work with each other, not against each other. National unity need not be as elusive as it has been.

Let us all work together because unity begets progress and progress will uplift the lives of the Filipino people.

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW/

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## Pump wins Gore nod

BACOLOD CITY — An indigenous water pump perfected in Negros Occidental that can bring water up to remote hillside villages without the use of electricity has won a local businessman an international green energy award to be presented by former US Vice President Al Gore this month.

The alternative hydropower Development Foundation Inc. based in Barangay Mandalagan, Bacolod City, is one of 10 renewable energy pioneers from across the globe that qualified for the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy and won $5,000 pounds cash, said Ashden Monica, ADIFI executive director.

**Enhanced**

ADIFI says he is specially designed ram pumps that run without need of fuel, although ram pump technology that taps the power of flowing river was developed some 300 years ago, ADIFI enhanced the technology using cheap locally available materials like door hinges to vertically move water up 100 to 200 meters.

"Our installations have no operation cost, they work on a 24-hour basis, has long-lasting parts replacement is cheap, said Ashden Monica, ADIFI executive director. It has already brought potable water to 15,000 people in 68 remote hillside villages in the Philippines, and is being replicated in other parts of the world.

ADIFI will compete with nine groups from Bangladesh, China, Ghana, India, Laos, Nepal, Peru and Tanzania for five top awards that will earn each winner an additional 20,000 pounds.

**Reminder**

Gore, who will present the prizes at the Ashden Awards' ceremony to be held at the Royal Geographical Society in London on June 21, had said the awards were "a powerful reminder that well-designed and managed local sustainable energy initiatives can tackle climate change, while meeting the needs of local communities."

"Tackling these issues can simultaneously—in both rich and poor countries—is critical in addressing the twin planetary challenges of climate change and sustainable development," Gore said.

ADIFI hopes to use its prize money to replicate its award-winning ram pump technology in Laos, Indonesia and Thailand, Monica said.

— Carla P. Ulanday, Inquirer Visayas

# CA upholds deal on PNCC debt

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS UPHELD THE billion compromise agreement forged between the then-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. and Rudstock Securities Ltd. to settle PNCC's debts.

In a May 31 decision, the appellate court dismissed the bid of Workers Alliance Beneficiary Corp. (Wabco) and Rodolfo Gamos to block the PNCC-Rudstock agreement.

The court said that since a compromise agreement was approved by the appellate court, the agreement became final and executory.

The agreement was forged in early the 26-year-old loan guaranteed by PNCC's predecessor, the Construction Development Corp. of the Philippines, to Marubeni Corp. of Japan. CDCP was bonded by Cuenca when it nationalized the loans.

In 2000, Marubeni sold its collectibles to the British Virgin Island-based Rudstock after failing to collect payments on the loan from PNCC.

"Nothing is more settled in law than that once a judgment attains finality it thereby becomes immutable and unalterable," the court said.

Under the agreement, the PNCC will pay part of its obligation to Rudstock with prime properties. The PNCC will also transfer to Rudstock its 6-percent share in the gross toll revenues of the Manila North Tollways Corp.

In a statement, Rudstock director Carlos Dominguez welcomed the ruling of the appellate court, saying it put an end to a long legal battle.

"To pay P6 billion for a P17 billion debt is very reasonable any way you look at it," Dominguez said.

But Rudstock spokesperson Joan Ocampo said the agreement did not end Rudstock's problems.

She said several land parcels included in the compromise agreement were subject to negotiations among several corporate entities. The cop-venture also faces a court case.

"What this is is a major first step and it will go a long way to helping PNCC clear up its balance sheet," Ocampo said. — Leila B. Salaverria

# 2 customs officials face graft charges

TWO SENIOR OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT the Ninoy Aquino International Airport—Alfredo Cruz and Emilino Calderon, both of the Public Assistance Unit—have been turned to questioned in a graft complaint filed in the Office of the Ombudsman.

The two officials were also charged with violation of the Tariff Code, gross misconduct, and violation of office rules and regulations.

In enrolling in complainant George Santos, Cruz and Calderon tried to bribe other customs officials in connection with a questionable shipment on March 30.

The shipment consisted laptop computers—one portable electric lamps as declared.

Deputy Customs Commissioner Celso F. Trinpio upheld the Intelligence and Investigation Group's recommendation for the filing of charges against Cruz and Calderon.

Santos said he filed the complaint even if it lacked the endorsement of Customs Commissioner Napoleon L. Morales.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 4, 2007
9th Week in Ordinary Time

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Reading: | Tb 1:3, 2:1-8 |
| Gospel: | Mark 12:1-12 |

Using parables, Jesus went on to say, "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a hole for the wine press and built a watch tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenants and went abroad.

"At due time he sent a servant to receive from the tenants his share of the fruit. But they seized the servant, struck him and sent him back empty-handed. Again the man sent another servant. They also struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. Still he sent another and they killed him. So the same was they treated many others; some they struck and others they killed. One was still left. An beloved son. And so, last of all, he sent him to the tenants, for he said, 'They will respect my son.'

"But those tenants said to one another: 'This is the one who is to inherit the vineyard. Let's kill him and the property will be ours.' So they seized him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. Now, what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others."

And Jesus added, "Have you not read this text of the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the key stone. This was the Lord's doing, and we marvel at it.'"

They wanted to arrest him for they realized that Jesus meant this parable for them, but they were afraid of the crowd. So they left him and went away.

Commentary

Like unfortunately lived in ancient Israel as we do and the hope is interested in preserving the sensitivity of Jewish family life, values, and faith even as they are exiled. Nine settlers or chaos has given us Protestant with the poor. But he reminds us with the news of a murder. In this brings the body Amos, three another and the text—the highest capital work of mercy for the Jewish people. It is denied by his neighbors who know that this is his lifestyle and that he has been persecuted for it before—but John is a just and faithful husband people we, even in times when our lives go well and we do not have persecution or evils?

Jesus tells the story of a vineyard through two sets tended and when the harvest came in, the tenants kept it for themselves, murdering all who were sent by the owner, including his own son, thinking they would get the vineyard for themselves. He are glad God what is that God... as a community, his people and Church? Jesus reminds the leaders of the parties of God and that God will vindicate those who are faithful and his own beloved son.

# PSBank, Metrobank Card Corporation Boost Metrobank Math Challenge

The winners of the 2007 Metrobank Math Challenge with Budget secretary Joel Lopez, DBM Usec Abad Florido Magsa Jr. and president Antonio Calo Abadilla.

Private sector efforts to help improve the quality of education got a much needed boost with the announcement of support from PSBank president Pascual Garcia and Metrobank Card Corporation president Aurie Young for the annual conduct of the national Metrobank Math Challenge. The involvement of both PSBank and the Metrobank Card Corporation is a notable expansion of their commitments as Corporate Social Responsibility, and is expected to further enhance the level of competition by encouraging more students from more schools to participate.

The support of PSBank and Metrobank Card Corporation comes on the heels of growing interest in the role of such educational activities in the wider concern to adequately prepare Filipino school children for the challenges of global intellectual competitiveness. Now on its tenth year of promoting greater interest in Math by providing a venue to hone the mathematical skills of the young in an atmosphere of friendly albeit fairly demanding competition, the Metrobank Math Challenge hopes to foster academic excellence by motivating schools to make math more interesting, which is considered the source of the misery.

Metrobank Foundation president Socorro Ambrosio expressed her appreciation for the growing public interest in the endeavors of a episode of Filipino children. "Since 1997, when the Foundation forged a partnership with the Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines (MTAP) to take up the competitions on their own, much strived to improve the program to help raise the standards of mathematical excellence among Filipino school children. With the support of companies like PSBank and Metrobank Card Corporation, and the continuing partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) and MTAP, we can count on the continued success of the Metrobank Math Challenge for many more years to come," he said.

Thanks has been likewise extended to many out high school students from public and private schools nationwide joined the 2007 Metrobank Math Challenge. After handling stringent elimination rounds at the preliminary regional and national levels, eighteen exemplary students won the hearts of the country's top think minds. The Foundation awarded close to half a million pesos in cash prizes, plus trophies and medals, to the winning delegations and their coaches at an awards ceremony held recently at the Metrobank Plaza, where Department of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus was guest of honor.

The Metrobank Foundation is the corporate social responsibility arm of the Metrobank Group. Over the last 36 years it has promoted a culture of excellence among Filipinos through its various programs, notable the Search for Outstanding Teachers, the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence, The Outstanding Philippine Soldier, the Outstanding Policemen in Service, The Outstanding Students of the Republic, and the College Scholarship Program. The Foundation also has a garde program that unites social development programs of NGOs and government agencies in the fields of education, healthcare, and the arts. Metrobank Foundation celebrates Filipino excellence and pursues reshapings of hope in the future of our nation.


2007 METROBANK-MTAP-DEPED MATH CHALLENGE NATIONAL WINNERS

GRADE 6 INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

1st Place: [redacted]

2nd Place: [redacted]

3rd Place: [redacted]

FIRST YEAR INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

1st Place: [redacted]

2nd Place: [redacted]

3rd Place: [redacted]

GRADE 8 TEAM COMPETITION

1st Place: [redacted]

2nd Place: [redacted]

3rd Place: [redacted]

4th YEAR TEAM COMPETITION

1st Place: [redacted]

2nd Place: [redacted]

3rd Place: [redacted]

NATIONAL FINALISTS

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

[redacted]

TEAM COMPETITION

[redacted]

METROBANK FOUNDATION

congratulates the winners of the

METROBANK-MTAP-DEPED MATH CHALLENGE 2007

With nearly 400,000 participants from more than 20,000 public and private schools all over the country, this year's competition has again put math instruction in the forefront of our efforts to help improve the quality of education as a whole.

To the winners, the lessons in discipline, hard work and team effort they learn in the course of the competition are just as important as the medals, trophies and cash awards. Aside from honing their mathematical skills, the rigors of training and participation actually help them prepare to become globally competitive professionals in the future.

As the nation embarks on the road to greater progress, the Metrobank Foundation together with PSBank and the Metrobank Card Corporation, in partnership with the Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines and the Department of Education, will continue to invest in the talent and potential of Filipino school children.

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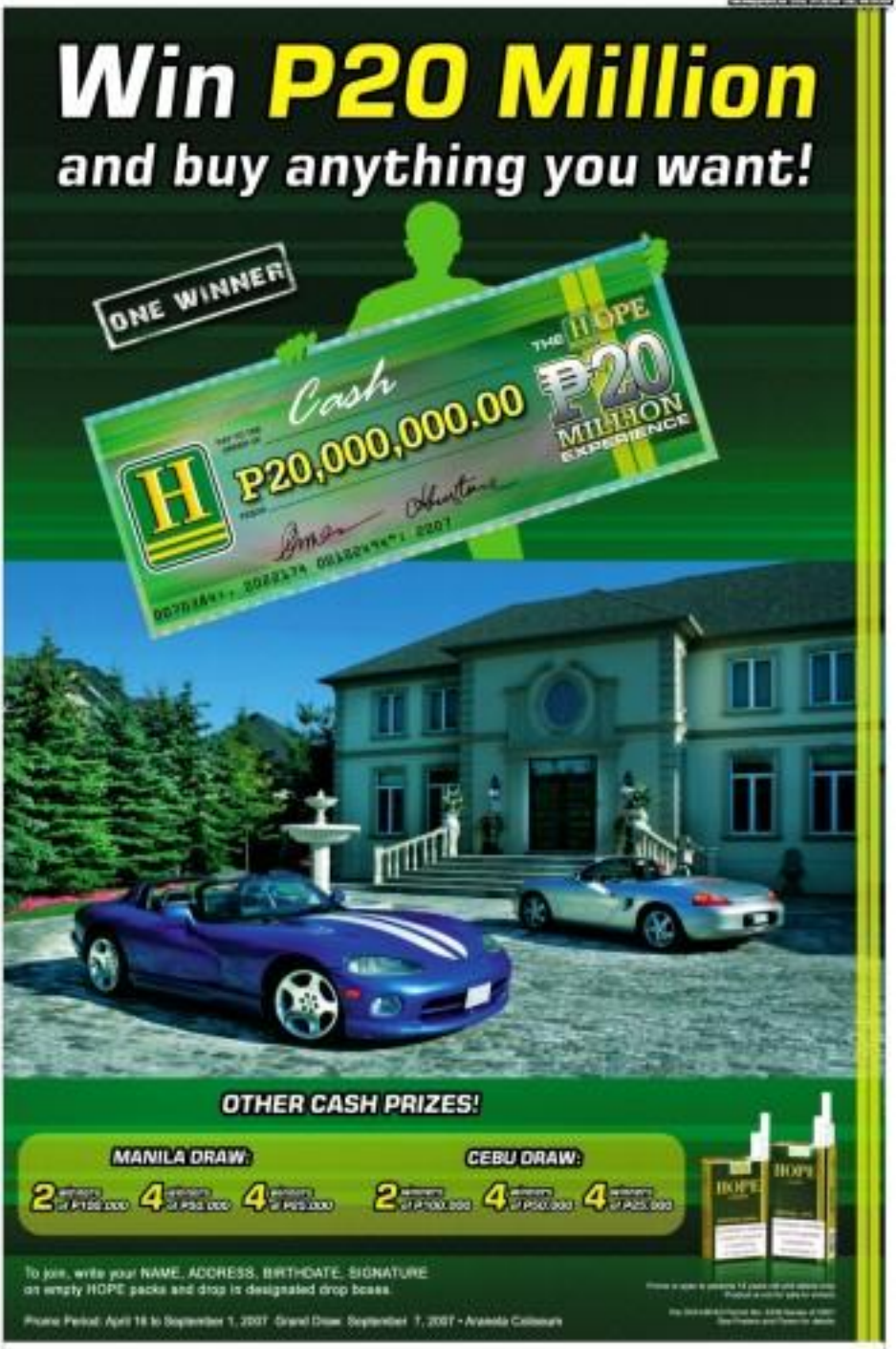


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# 'Sison still top Red'

THE MILITARY IS... Jose Ma. Sison is still very much on the top of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which continues to wage an insurgency against the government...

...armed forces of the Philippine administration. And in GA Santiago Reyes said here, she forward-looking, armed forces doctrine by the 1990s there's no end and a dimension he allegedly gave three years ago watching the resilience of [illegible] leaders against the talk...

"These statements come from him," Reyes said.

Sison, through his lawyer, had asked the European Union Court of Justice to remove his name from its list, saying he had removed himself from the communist movement 29 years ago when he became a political prisoner during the Marcos dictatorship.

Probably the easiest way to protect himself, he basically the information that we have in the general is that in Davao a self-employed in the top leaders of the CPP/NPA. Reyes said. Duterte is [illegible]


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# Australia now major player in RP security

From page A1

is under the mercy of neutrals as a major player in Philippine security arrangements, breaking the monopoly of the United States as the bilateral guarantor of the country's external security.

In parts the way for similar agreements with other countries, as the pact explicitly the opening of Philippine territory to multilateral and bilateral defense arrangements.

While Philippine and Australian military officials sought to narrate the public that joint training exercises would not allow Australian troops to engage in combat operations against groups tagged as terrorist, such as the Abu Sayyaf, the agreements establishes the military presence of Australian forces on Philippine soil.

## VFA

The pact is the second RoA signed by the Philippines with a foreign government. The first was the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) it signed with the United States, to allow joint Philippine-US military exercises in the Philippines following the expulsion of the US military from its air base in Clark, Pampanga and naval base in Subic, Zambales, in 1992.

The VFA with Australia allows warring soldiers to train with Filipino troops and serves as the framework that governs the behavior of visiting forces during joint military exercises.

It raises the profile of Australian military presence in the Philippines already complaining deeply in the US-led war against extremist Islamic groups associated with Osama bin Laden.

The US has first worked by unconventional sovereignty issues over the criminal jurisdiction of Philippine courts and over the custody of suspicious arrestees for offenses while acting out in the joint exercises.

Philippine officials travelling with the AFP/JSU were unsure over whether the field with Australia would amount to counter-away screaming from the custody of US Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

A Philippine court sentenced Smith to up to 40 years in prison in December 2006 for raping a young Filipino woman.

At the signing of the RoA, Australian Prime Minister John Howard acknowledged "the effects of the Philippines in combating and overcome terrorism, the terrible threat which it [terrorism] and in the country."

## Giordonetti

Australia put military muscle into the pact by donating 20 high-speed patrol boats 34 million to patrol mainland as run in Mindanao, home to terrorist groups such as Islamic Abu Sayyaf, a rightist Islamist group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda, and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Mr Arroyo told Howard that Australia's help in the development of the Philippines in counter-terrorism training, although Washington had disbursed $100 million in military aid to Philippine armed forces since 2000, the US has limited its assistance to hard hardware, paying bonus and trucks.

"I was in 2000 that US troops returned to the Philippines for joint military exercises.

## Soft and hard power

In an interview with the Australian newspaper, Mr. Arroyo said: "Even before the Bali bombing (in 2000, which killed about on 100 Australian tourists), the Philippines was on the forefront of fighting terrorists in southern Philippines," and Australia "has been helping us as we downright" with a new approach, "combining soft and hard power."

She said the both "will help us to get to Immediate and insidious war armed forces ... so that we can help one another against terrorism."

Mr Arroyo, however, emphasized that she role of Australian forces would be limited: "The links in the training and intelligence fusion, not the operations.

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# Filipinos cheer names 4 new s

From page A1

Filipinos have a special role in the sainthood of Marie Eugenie, whose order was dedicated to the education of young women.

The miracle that led to her canonization happened in Rio Rondo, now 12. The child's brain malformation was cured after her family and the Assumption sisters prayed for the intercession of Marie Eugenie and after the child was placed on top of her tomb in Paris.

Benedict, wearing a white jacket over his white cloak, handed to the Pope a framed art donation from the Religious of the Assumption for a school for disadvantaged children in Africa.

Accompanied by her mother Carmen "Mercha" Benito and Dr. Diana Pineda, superior of the Religious of the Assumption, Rio went up a second time to the Pope to receive communion from him.

## Three presidents

The three leaders of the countries the three main saints came from were present at the canonization rites—President Mary McAleese of Ireland, President Edward Fitsch Adami of Malta and President Lech Kaczynski of Poland.

While Marie Eugenie was from France, the French government was represented only by its cultural minister Christine Albanel.

As though to make up for the absence of the highest French leader, Ms. Albanel, an outspoken atheist and a devout Catholic, introduced First Lady Margaret to Ebrahi, after an exceptionally amusing name for Marie Eugenie's canonization.

At the start of the homily the Pope acknowledged Ms. Arroyo "for among the four heads of state present. Seated among hundreds of VIPs on the right side facing the imposing facade of St. Peter's Cathedral, Ms Arroyo held her own umbrella.

She was accompanied by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See Antonio Nieto.

## Assumption Alumni Association

Ms. Lourdes Borromeo, president of the Assumption Alumnae Association, said Ms Arroyo's presence into significance and brought pride to the Assumption community.

"We're all happy she's able to attend as a daughter of Marie Eugenie," Borromeo said.

Explaining Ms Arroyo's presence, he said: "She's just attending as a classmate, as an alumna but of course she will be given a special place."

Ms Arroyo was present with the three other heads of state in the front row of the VIP area.

## Visit to Fatima

She is scheduled to have a private audience with the Pope today before proceeding on the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal on a four-day trip described as a spiritual journey.

The statement said, among the set up by St. Peter's Cathedral began at 10 a.m. amid a downpour that went on for hours.

The Pope formally declared Benard the first new saints at the conclusion of the long process required for canonization. The Mass and the declaration of sainthood were in Latin.

"In honor of the Holy Trinity and with the authority that comes from the Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostles Peter and Paul, after reflecting and praying for the help of the Lord and listening to the opinions of the brother bishops, I declare saints Gregory, Stephen Gyalpo, Hard and Santa An-

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is embraced by Australian Prime Minister John Howard during her visit to Canberra. AFP

# as Pope
# aints


China Panorama

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1F | Beijing 3 - 4 Days | |
| 1G-1 | Beijing, Tianjin, Chengde, Qinhuangdao 3 - 4 Days | Tues, Fri |
| C1G-1 | Beijing, Shanghai 4 Days | |
| C1G-1 | Beijing, Xi'an, Luoyang, Zhengzhou, Shanghai 4 Days | |
| 1H | Shanghai 3 - 4 Days | Mon, Wed, Fri |
| 1G-1 | Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou 4 - 6 Days | |
| C1A | Beijing, Xian, Guilin 5 - 6 Days | Friday |
| C1B | Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin 6 - 8 Days | Tues, Wed, Fri |
| C1C | Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Guilin 8 - 10 Days | Wed, Fri |
| 1I | Guangzhou/Macau, Zhuhai/Hong Kong 3 - 5 Days | Friday |
| 1K | Xiamen, Quanzhou, Fuzhou 3 - 5 Days | Friday |

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# OPINION

## Let's keep it real

**EDITORIAL**

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HAS LAUNCHED an ambitious campaign to build a digital infrastructure that will offer disadvantaged students the right to the country an alternative learning platform. The P5-billion Cyber Education Project is audacious in scope; unfortunately, its very audacity may be used to disguise its flaws.

We hope the Deped—and Malacañang, too, which gave the information and communications technology (ICT) project its sudden momentum—will prove to catch its breath, consider the many lessons of our recent history, and then (in ICT-speak) scale back the project.

We accept many of the project's premises, and conspire there with Education Secretary Jesli Lapus' desire to leave a legacy in digital education, but we cannot ignore those aspects of the project which worry us.

Certainly, if it works, and if it attracts the right kind of user, the proposed infrastructure will enable those without previous and reliable access to the Internet to continue or complete their education, perhaps at their own pace. The National Economic and Development Authority, in promulgating the project, described its main benefit and identified its main beneficiaries in straightforward terms. "Many public schools and out-of-school youths and adults throughout the country can access live and interactive broadcast instruction using satellite-based technology. Users will also be able to get information and communication technology-based instructional packages through the Internet and a dedicated education network."

And certainly, if it works and if it attracts the right kind of user, the Cyber Education Project will dramatically modernize Philippine public school education. Note again: "This e-education system will allow interactivity between and among the learners and teachers. It will allow the learners to deal with interesting and high-quality lessons and to become well motivated and receptive to ideas presented through television and other multimedia instructions."

The project roll-out aims to include 23,548 public schools nationwide, plus 665 Alternative Learning System (ALS) Learning Centers.

Well, we did say it was ambitious; in fact, it was the sheer scale of the project that gave rise to our first misgivings. The government cannot afford an expensive failure; indeed, even if the project fails, the education department will be forced to continue "using" it, simply because money is the first law of any bureaucracy. Why start with such a wide base?

It appears that the project was much more modest originally: a P5-billion build-operate-transfer proposal the Neda approved in November last year. Why did it grow five times in projected cost in the six months between approval and President Macapagal-Arroyo's official visit to China in April?

On that visit, the Philippines signed five agreements with China, including a $465.5-million soft loan from Taiwan as Tsinghua University's co-lead adviser (the entire Cyber Education Project. (The remaining cost, some P5.7 billion, will be shouldered by the Philippine government.)

Perhaps the availability of soft money quickened the pulse of planners from Malacañang, Neda and the Deped. (Never mind that however soft the terms of the loan were, the money would still have to be repaid in the future, and by a government that passed up the advantages of a BOT project.)

Or perhaps the very people who were responsible for the recent overpricing scheme involving a regional office of the Deped—P200,000 per computer!—find inadequate themselves into the project. That building never got off the ground, after embarrassed education officials worked hurriedly to put out the public relations fire. But the would-be scammers were never penalized either.

The privatization of the funding is also worrisome, because recent loans backed by the government of Gloria have turned out to be controversy-ridden. The $330-million National Broadband Network Deal? a project that should be aligned with Deped's infrastructure-building, but isn't? is only the latest case in point.

So, a second scale-down. Let's keep it real. Let's scale back the project, let's renegotiate the funding, let's make the entire process transparent. Lapus is not going anywhere just yet, is he?

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## TU bets still waiting for Mindanao magic?

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS TO DECLARE defeat in the senatorial election. Earlier, she had declared herself as (except the results or the election). Her former chief of staff, Mike Defensor, has done so. So what are the other members of Team Unity doing? Migz Zubiri and Ralph Recto were described in banners as, for example, "Ralph Recto Pa Rin" (It's behind Defensor who has conceded. It's impossible for him to catch up and land in the winning circle unless the "opposition" do some magic. After all, it is called the Magic 12, so why not receive some magic to land in it?

The opposition did produce magic in some of Mindanao, but they overdid it. After successfully remembering in the 2004 elections—after attaching Erap's name to the opposition's slate—and getting away with it, they became overconfident, to confident that they gave the Team Unity candidates a 12-0 victory in the province of Maguindanao (probably expecting a victory of 11-1 with Zubiri losing). They assumed, as Hussein found "mathematically impossible." That is why the canvassing of votes from Maguindanao and North Cotabato was delayed. The figures are simply unbelievable.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) from Luzon del Sur, Visayas del Norte and Subic-Bataan have now yet been forwarded to the National Canvassing Board in Manila because of questionable statements of Mayo Sayo and persons out of it.

The canvassing of votes in Lanao del Sur and Basilan is still going on. Together, these Muslim provinces have more than 1 million registered voters. Those are the votes that Pichay is of anything that will help the Magic 12.

That was why the administration candidates apparently panicked a 12-0 win for Team Unity. In spite of the dirt it belies, they can do it again.

All the pieces are falling into place. So, what are the chances of the opposition's magic (or, if they can't use "magic" against the administration) and "command votes" would do the trick are "whole, safe-canvassing." Choosing those openly Mamasapano and thereabouts. Even during the recent elections, where the votes of the nation were re-

TODAY'S FOCUS:

1. Do you know where's he or-ed compression came from?

In the Animal Kingdom, a group of bears is called a pride; a group of hunters is a pack of cards; a herd of fish, a school of birds, a flock; of lions, a company of whales, a pod; and of baboons, a congress. Of the animals mentioned, only the baboons resemble politicians physically and mentally.

Now you know.

Now you know from school, asked his mother. His classmate said baboon came on through a hole where s...s also comes out. Is this true?

Mother: Of course. Where do you think compression came from?

## The times they are a-changin'

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

I'M STILL REELING OVER THE RESULTS OF the senatorial race, even as I'm still fuming over the not so subtle attempts to steal the win—knowing that Jamaica from the properties party-list groups, which succeeded in those groups' minor debacle in these elections. But I'll save the latter for some other day.

I can't get over the fact that the result of the voting right here for a couple of reasons.

One is the failure of the opposition to harness, as the fall the panorama for a protest vote. I still think the non-TU candidates could have swept the field had they openly, explicitly, overtly forged on the election as a referendum on Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. What they did was advertise themselves on individual merit and not on their opposition to illegitimate rule. Except Antonio Trillanes, and he's in the Magic 12 on the strength of it. It is a testament to how deep the public resentment against this government goes that the opposition has done exceedingly well in spite of itself.

The other thing which I expected to reach the same ends in 2004, if not record it, I couldn't see anything standing in the way of it. At the very least, the people who struggle a helluva lot more populated—indeed they were crowded right on the top of the ballot. Migrant workers, the elderly, overseas Filipinos, in everything about it. Everyone rises and musters themselves to be counted, and that very experience guarantees much it would become self-fulfilling.

But I was left with the thought of 15 years of it just not working. The farmers were no poor or accident and in poor to interest, in part to the will of heaven and in parts the air of touch.

Probably the most important reason there—though not a very visible one, is one I've seen there—was the absence of the Poor Commission on the scene. If anything demonstrates that he is a public figure and not a private one (as he insisted when he filed libel charges against more than 40 journalists) it's the fact that he has not been paid libel. Because he did not, that his appearance could not be entertainment since he was-

(Turning, what follows is continuing instability to the nation, as it happening now.

Mindanao is an icon of political existence. The way where the dead rose from their graves or ever—but was where the birds and the bees all to round. Now voters have won as if with identical precision. Not just in one province or in places where no voting took place. This a where, according to administration mouthpieces, votes candidly were missing due to the disinterest of their leaders.

Just the thing to occupy where it was for a hour of concise punchbole under the Ombudsman Election Code? Isn't offering huge sums to campaigns that pay Team Unity a 12-0 victory hour of vote buying? Aren't these anti-pundits like the [illegible] the Mindanao leaders guilty of these instances?

We have a new law, the Electoral Tabangay Law that punishes wholesale cheating...such as was done in Maguindanao...until left impressions. Why not use it? Or was The Comelec chairman wholesale poll cheating a getting out of control that will it be a detailment law to some?

Criminals repeat their crimes taken they are not punished. Doesn't you remember that the operators of the jueteng scandal were the same ones mentioned in the cheating in 2004? They got away with it then, so they are doing it again.

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# A cautionary tale

**COMMENTARY**

*Denis Murphy*

THAT IS THE STORY OF 414 FAMILIES, 21,000 men, women and children) evicted from their homes by the Metropolitan Development Authority in Payatas barangay to make way for the erection of under the Manila Bay.

It is not the biggest tragedy ever, but it is an example of how society and especially the government can be so insensitive to the misery of the poor. Even the traditional, democratic and non-violent ways (e.g., labor unions, farmer organizations and urban poor federations) that have used to improve their lives. If we are not careful, we will lose the gains we have made in the past 20 years for the poor for this reason. I am sorry is a customary cure.

The story began last February with the eviction of 57 families living under the bridge on Quezon Highway, over the Tripa de Gallina estero. It fight was resisted by the residents who were backed by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and other militant groups. They supported the people and the MMDA. Shots were fired by the MMDA police and everyone, including the rioters, ran to flee for their lives.

The homeless numbered to one or more in separate incidents since this MMDA demolition team. But the judge could render a decision.

The MMDA doesn't believe in relocation, although it says it does. Relocation sites are too far from the city proper, where the poor can find jobs. Besides, the government's housing agencies was exiled. But the bishop found the meeting "deeply disappointing." The agencies blamed one another for the damage done to the people. The bishop held a press conference, but nothing changed.

The government offered the homeless families a place in Cabuyao which is 100 kilometers away. It is not only far from the city, but also from the sea. It is now in Mandaluyong for double transfer. Some families cited the Cabuyao relocation site, but a number of claims have come back—the place has no electricity, water, light or jobs.

A family wouldn't choose and loses its car or its 100 kids saving to evolve.

Together with poor people from the demolished banks (who also face eviction), the women met with Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales last April 28. A informant quietly for nearly two hours to their problems, and promised to write to the President, asking her to help the people with their requests, including that there should no one but. The letter was delivered, but there was no response. And the poor people, the major newspapers and a news story appeared saying the people would march to Malacañang to stop it. Government agencies stuck to their guns to do.

A meeting was called at Caritas by the Religious Affairs Office with the basic living conditions people in the United States but they will ever see the American president down their problems.) This failed in a meeting Tuesday is very important. People can write our pleas from barangays but if they're there that they want to be up a or their side. Second, they cannot argue with the officials they met along the way. They don't make make remarks or middle class people for when they go to school experiences with government agencies.

There were only about 200 people who joined the march. Many were afraid of going in Manila.

Is because of its tragic history, some were pressuaded not to go by ideological groups, and others were busy with election matters. And some leaders wouldn't destroy the "storm broken" they had promised.

The Manila police were outspoken, but they wouldn't let the people into Mendiola. At the barricades, the people knelt down to pray and Fr. Robert Reyes and Fr. Joe Dizon of Ateneo University where the KMU had its rally. Then though they were marching away from Mendiola and their source "march interest," it was a relief to see the 200 poor on the streets. It appeared like a "people power" rally, but it was "power" ...of that day when the poor shall have taken their place among the nation's decision makers, instead of addressing themselves, the women talked to the media and the future of Fifi.

The women came to Manila and when their requests they received an appointment with the President—the questions reminded Sen. "When do you think you are?" Their answer was The President is the only person who can stop the MMDA. But is the only one who can help the people to do the reasonable things to poor ones, after all, the appointed the technocrat who can't or won't help them. And why can't 200 poor women see her? Is there democracy or not? the women asked

# Inspiring column for the young

ABIGAIL TAN #005 SIGHT is saying that the Front page feature story on the six young scientists (Inquirer, 5/28/07) provided a respite from the depressing news about skewered fraud and extortion.

Indeed, the Inquirer follows its mission of balanced news.

Being a Filipino, I am very proud of these young scientists. May their tribe increase. (I know there are many others like them, it's just that they have yet to be discovered.) Here, being a Christian mother (I'm teaching 7th Grade Pre-Algebra at the Hapwood Junior High in Salpan, Northern Mariana Islands), I'm intrigued by Ateneo Medeo Ultrapotra's scanning transmission of ultrastructural-molecular geometric patterns of Babaye weavings. I read that others (Ateneo personnel too, he was wearing the traditional G-string pants) all of those patterns on (c) which made the presentation very authentic.

Last touching "misadventures," a genuinely male artistic inclination (installations, using transistors, radiation, cosmic and dilation. Ateneo is very famous for cosmic ray and I'm there are many Babaguya who are in talented as the girls.

I thank Tan for enlisting young people. That column, I'm sure, inspired young scientists to some success for sure.

—MOLLY SICOBOL
mollysicobol@hotmail.com

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Write a letter to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

# Time to look beyond election

THE ELECTION IS OVER BUT the many issues clamored during the campaigns are far from resolved. Some are still buzzed on politics, and very few are taking action regarding another equally important, if not more important, concern—the opening of classes for school year 2007-2008.

What have been done to prepare our public schools? How about the problem of flooding that forces schools to cancel classes during heavy rains? How about the school in Tanjay, Batangas where a teacher died during the election? How about the dilapidated classrooms have repaired? How about the liability-of-the-teacher? Has it done?

It is true that the Department of Education's Brigada Eskwela program has been helped in preparing some public schools for the opening of classes. But a lot still remains to be done. We hope that the newly elected officials are making this concern above Schools No. 1 to their "To Do" list.

Newly elected officials should not hold their victory parties before they have their hands sure that at least all school buildings are ready for our children—sanitation, safe, and conducive learning environment. Just these are enough reasons to the first day of classes that children will not be stranded because of flooding.

We're still all excited to know who will rule in the senatorial race. We are all still pending that there will be no dagdag-bawas. We all believe that if there are valid election protests, they should be heard out. But it's about time we lookout beyond the election and heard other important issues such as education for that.

—CAVIARRI M. MARCIOUS
pejkmarcious@hotmail.com

# Demand up for HRM graduates

The Philippine tourism industry has recovered from the disruption was brought about by the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis.

The said economic crisis that hit the Philippines resulted to a significant drop in foreign investment and tourist influx in the country.

The crisis led to a record-low slump in hotel and resort occupancy rates. But now tourism is major turnaround and Philippine tourism is now on a resurgence.

**The end of 2006 sets an all-time high record of about three million visitors who came into the country.**

The government estimates that there were about three million visitors who came into the country by the end of 2006, setting an all-time record high.

The tourism boom in the Philippines follows a global trend that resulted into a huge demand for Hotel and Restaurant Management (HRM) graduates and professionals.

Statistics from the World Tourism Organization shows that the tourism industry is the world's second largest industry that is able to employ 231 million individuals worldwide.

It is essential, therefore, for Filipino HRM professional aspirants to be aptly prepared through proper education and world-class quality training that will serve as an edge above job seekers from other countries.

STI

# GOING BEYOND ICT

STI, an established educational institution, has been at the forefront of addressing the demands of the industry. Thus, its strategy is to go beyond ICT.

After launching its nursing program in 2004, STI has embarked on providing ICT-enhanced HRM courses in more than 30 of its network of over 100 schools nationwide.

STI's HRM curriculum was co-developed with the industry practitioners including board members from the Council of Hotel and Restaurant Educators of the Philippines.

To fully-equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to become top-notch HRM professionals anywhere in the world, STI offers Hospitality and Restaurant Services (HRS), Hotel and Restaurant Administration (HRA) and BS Hotel and Restaurant Management (BSHRM) as its major programs.

**STI provides ICT-enhanced HRM courses in more than 30 of its 100 schools nationwide.**

HRM students of STI can take advantage of the Jobfocused Hotel and Restaurant Management program, a competency-based, technical and skills specific program that is carefully designed to prepare students for employment in business establishments and also provides them with valuable experience through the extensive Internship Program in STI's industry partners. The Jobfocused program leads to a four-year degree in HRM.

According to the leading provider of ICT and ICT-enhanced education in the country, its commitment goes beyond just providing education so the youth they also to make sure that its students have easy employment opportunities when they graduate.

This is the reason why STI has industry partners to complement its E2E or Enrollment to Employment System. The E2E System is STI's complete approach to learner success development. It aims to take care of the students' needs from the time they enroll up to the time they apply for a job.

STI has gone beyond ICT to continue providing quality education to other professional fields. Students can now able to take up ICT-enhanced courses from STI like Business and Management, Engineering, Education and Healthcare. STI students are also given substantial opportunities through on-the-job trainings in highly reputable companies in the Philippines, Singapore and other countries worldwide.

# No dredging in Calatagan

THE REPORT TO THE NEWS STORY ON Landco Pueblo Corp. that appeared in the May 27 issue of this Inquirer. The company wishes to state the following:

1. The Playa Calatagan project is in the early stages of development. There are several critical construction activities going on, one of which is the project's main drainage line. The newly developed portion of this line is needed to channel all surface and storm water properly and safely.

There is no "dredging activity" yet. What the Inquirer story referred to was the main components of the drainage line. And we are not using any mechanical dredgers—we simply just excavated the area with backhoes and will dispose the excavated soil in the area. Contrary to what was alleged, there is no violation of ordinance. Neither is there any activity along the beach.

2. There was no consultation held to our development work. It is true that some NGO representatives mentioned in the story did go to the project site sometime late last month and tried to stop our development work. There was no legal or even formal basis for such an unwarranted stoppage.

3. Following the above attempt, a meeting was held last May 9, with all stakeholders and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, present. All concerns were aired in that meeting and all the participants affirmed Landco's right to proceed with all its activities in accordance with the plans presented to and approved by the DENR. We can provide anyone interested with a copy of the minutes of that meeting, upon request.

4. In the same report, the Barangay Pasay (previously environment and natural resources officer) was quoted as saying that "Landco did not violate any EIC (Environmental Compliance Certificate) provision in their dredging activities at the site. The statement is not true as it is also in part of Condition 6 on environment management plan. Dredging is not prohibited if done just to remove the silt deposits in the area. But if you would dredge the area (without a purpose), then it is."

5. So far as Landco is concerned, the alleged dredging is a non-issue. Landco is a responsible developer of world-class leisure and tourist destinations. As a matter of policy and practice, Landco consistently complies with all the regulations and standards set by the DENR and all duly authorized government agencies and regulations.

Our projects are so rooted in and dependent on their surrounding ecosystem into their construction that it does not make sense for us to destroy the very products we are selling.

Playa Calatagan is a work in progress. We invite any interested party to come to the site and observe our construction activities there.

We appreciate all parties concerned to wish us the best and sound suggestions.

—ALFREDO TEE-SUMAGUIN
senior vice president, sales and marketing,
Landco Pueblo Corp.

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The story on Playa Calatagan was based not on mere speculations but on facts. Landco says that there were no dredging activities in the site. The Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (MFARMC) has already refuted this claim and photos and is in regular inspection report, copies of which were furnished to the Inquirer. The documents and the interviews with DENR and MFARMC officials were enough weight to the story. All the data reported in the story were verified and checked before publication.

—MARLON ALEXANDER LESTER
correspondent, Inquirer Southern Luzon

# 'We don't give up'

I FOUND THE ARTICLES ABOUT THE HARASSING thoughts provoking. They were written well. But I would like to point particularly to the investigative article titled "Clutter among exits" (Inquirer, 5/28/07).

Nicholette Bonilla-Abiasi wrote that she didn't win because she didn't block a candidate who deserved her vote. She deserved voting as choosing from among the lesser evil, and I don't want to agree with that.

I agree with most of what she wrote though. But there are people in our government who refuse to be driven into the easy road of doing things—like cheating and lying.

We, citizens must support candidates who would be people of definite character; and here's where it is where who didn't register for the elections they thought all the candidates were crap ups.

We have a choice as to whom we want to put in government. We have to exercise that choice if we want to see clutter here. If we don't give up.

—ANDREA ARCEO
38 Pilar Barzon St.,
El Viento, Pasahaque City

Across the NATION

# 8 abductors charged

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police said charges of forcible abduction and serious illegal detention would be filed today against eight suspects in the May 31 abduction of a German treasure hunter and his three Filipino companions in Pikit, North Cotabato.

Senior Supt. Alfredo Tamerosa, intelligence chief of the Cotabato Provincial Police Command, told the Inquirer that for-hire charges had been prepared based on witnesses' testimonies.

Only one of the suspects has so far been identified as a certain Rasul, said to be a common partner of the German victim, Thomas Wulfert, and their aide-at-arms, Rodel Sulpher.

The other suspects, Tamerosa said, were identified in the charge sheet as "John Does."

Wulfert, 44, of Cologne, Germany, and his companions came from Davao City and were on their way here to talk to a man claiming to be selling sacred kabbini when abducted in Barangay Bunducan in Pikit.

Witnesses said the abductors led the victims into their waiting cars after a brush with Bunducan village officials and Barangay Chief Mohaimin in the neighboring town of Pagalungan Maguindanao.

The abductees were ensconced in their Pikit hideout by Filipino-American wife Mrs. Sharon Jackson, Consuelo Inc. Jessi and Diego Orillo after they were intercepted by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas at about 1 p.m. of the same day.

Chief Supt. Rolando Mercado, regional police director, linked the police and military units in the area, as well as the MILF leadership, and the local populace in their cooperation in the immediate rescue of the kidnap victims.

Mercado said the group behind the kidnapping belonged to the Moro National Liberation Front "Lost Command" led by a certain Commander Rahidan Ismail.

Police will include Ismail in the charge sheet as soon as witnesses execute affidavits against him, he said.

*Agustin Dimsi, Inquirer Mindanao*

# 3 suspected NPA rebels captured

GADIP SAMAR, LUCENA CITY—THREE SUSPECTED New People's Army rebels believed to be involved in the burning and bombing of a Globe communication tower in Rizal on last week were arrested by government forces in two separate occasions, according to Lt. Col. Roderick Baruyan, spokesperson of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division.

Baruyan on Thursday said joint police and Army forces captured a certain Jimmy Balbarona, alias "Ka Jun" during pursuit operations in Barangay Agsanay in Asturias (Bantayan) on May 30.

Balbarona was on his way to his home in Barangay Poblacion in Mandaon town after beating members of a family intended for his wounded comrades when he was arrested.

The provincial troops recovered from him a .357 caliber revolver, one Motorola cell phone and assorted ammunitions.

On May 27, intermittently after pursuit operations were conducted against the rebels who tried to burn and bomb the Globe towers in Barangays Labong, Bolong, Ibo dan Imelda. The rebels captured Catholic Sisco, alias "Ka Chandra," and Jaime Alvarez, alias "Ka Jose," both 18.

Sisco was reportedly a Sangguniang Kabataan chair in Barangay Maqui, Rizal, Mayor.

Recovered from the two were four M-16 rifle, ammunitions, five bullets, one flare, seven mines and a cell phone in a cord.

Baruyan said the third were part of the 50th unit that tried to attack the Globe office in Bolong on May 26 that left three soldiers dead. Rolfe Hubert Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

# More losing candidates question poll results

LOSING CONTENDERS IN SAMAR, Bukidnon and Antique have protested the election returns of their rivals, citing massive vote-buying, harassment and other poll-related irregularities.

In Bukidnon, 12 losing candidates led by former Rep. Felicito Payumo, Maria Aurora Gonzales and former Bansan Gov. Leonardo Perlada on Thursday asked the Commission on Elections to declare a failure of elections in the province due to alleged massive cheating and violations of election laws that, they said, were done with the help of goons and policemen.

In San Remigio town, Antique, councilor Edmundo Hingpit, a defeated mayoral candidate has asked the Antique Regional Trial Court to nullify the results of elections he claims he alleged partisan activities and for allegedly using soldiers deployed to the town to intimidate voters during the elections.

Mayor Elizabeth Colmo was ordered shot execution jockeytown.

**Bataan**

In a petition filed on May 29, the candidates wanted the Comelec to annul the election results in Bataan and hold a special election.

In a statement, they said "massive cheating and wholesale violation of election laws were committed with impunity as they were executed with the assistance and cooperation of not only the listed goons, ...elite schoolteachers elements, but even by some members of the Philippine National Police."

They said the respondents, led by re-elected Gov Enrique Garcia Jr. and his son, reelected Rep. Albert Garcia, also "used public vehicles and ambulances as well as other properties and facilities of the government" in their irregularities.

The Garcias, they said, used "systematic fraud, terrorism, illegal schemes and machinations" such that thousands of registered voters were "either barred from casting the ballots or simply waive their rights altogether as in both cases under the set of physical violence of armed goons."

Governor Garcia had denied these, stating Gonzales, for one, "used multi-million election returns" to "convince" the results for her.

Gonzales, daughter of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, lost to Representative Garcia in the second congressional district race.

The Garcias denied buying votes, harassing voters and employing goons and policemen.

The petitioners welcomed the resignation of Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr. but urged the poll body to "continue with the investigation" of the irregularities committed by the Garcias and their allies.

Bataan police chief Senior Supt. Gilberto Rosaroso denied that policemen helped candidates in vote-buying and other forms of poll-cheating by escorting the president of Bora Bigalcoh.

Valdez went pursuing his declaration of failure of election but then due to what is regarded as mechanical failure such as the stoppage of the voting, counting or canvassing process because of lost ballots, what happened in Bataan was a substantive failure because the true will of the people was frustrated during the last elections," the 12 complainants said.

In Bukidnon, former Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan on Friday asked the Comelec for a recount of votes in the gubernatorial race. Pagdanganan lost to Board Member Joaquin Mendoza, brother of outgoing Bukidnon Gov. Jonathan dela Cruz.

Pagdanganan asked the Comelec to recount the votes in at least 4,000 precincts where, he said, the alleged fraud was committed against him.

Pagdanganan, a candidate of the Lakas-CMD, received 160,814 votes from the 213 towns and three cities of Bukidnon while Mendoza of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino got 166,866 votes.

The Bataan and San Ildefonso and Mendoza for comment on Friday.

**Antique**

In his petition filed May 22, Pringlas also asked the court to declare a failure of election for the mayoral post of San Remigio or declare him as winner in the May 14 elections.

He alleged that Colmo got more votes because the officers and enlisted men of the town's 79th Infantry Battalion campaigned for her and her party mates.

Colmo's Lakas CMD won unofficial tally of 5,490 votes to Pringlas' 5,490 votes of Bitinggay (Nacionalista People's Coalition).

Pringlas claimed that on the day of the election, 158 soldiers of the 79th led by San Remigio Mayor Colmo and her party mates in the province's election.

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# Lanao town mayor faces arrest for death of rival's supporters

COTABATO CITY—THE REELECTED MAYOR OF MALABANG, Lanao del Sur and four other people, including a police superintendent, have been issued arrest warrants for the killing of two supporters of retired mayoral candidate in the 1998 elections.

On May 31, Judge Lucia Bito-Lua Gonzales of the Regional Trial Court in Quezon City ordered the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation to immediately arrest Malabang Mayor Ansrer Balindong, Supt. Jalaluddin Cana, and three others, PO3 Romeo Abdulmalik, all summoned Balindong.

Mayor Balindong and his companions were accused of killing Twin Angkalanan of Cadiz Manobos, who was then joined against him.

Court records showed that in May 1998, Balindong's group had a pull-colonel argument with the group of Manobos at the town's police station.

The argument heated up and ensued into a shooting spree.

Killed were Manobos supporters Dante Lindawan and Amir Mayomdomao while seven others were injured.

The Justice ruled but failed to get Mayor Balindong's side.

But the brother-in-law and Malabang Vice Mayor Bhuntamin Ibrahim described the warrant as wrongful.

He said Balindong was able to "survive" past warrants for his arrest involving the same case by posting bail.

Ibrahim said the latest warrant was apparently politically motivated.

Pamick Arsim, another Balindong in-law, warned that the re-issuance of the warrant of arrest might have a "bloody" repercussions.

In Judge Gerilo's latest ruling, she recommended P200,000 and P1,20,000 bail bond for each of the accused for the frustrated murder and attempted murder charges, respectively.

But the recommendation had no bail double murder rap.

In issuing the warrant, Gerilo cited a Supreme Court ruling of March 30, 2000 which a similar case involving Teresita Lindawa and Judge Ralph Lee.

She said the Judge doing case had dragged on for more

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## Food terminals to benefit farmers

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—The province's vegetable industry stands to gain much from the Department of Agriculture's program to modernize the Philippine Commodity System to Metro Manila.

The $46 May 31 working paper on market access identified Benguet as the major source of high-land vegetables that could supply existing and future Philippine Food Terminals (PFTs) designed to improve the trading system.

The PFTs are being developed to become the demand for highland vegetables.

From June to December this year, Metro Manila is projected to demand the following volumes of vegetables: Cabbage, 65,651 metric tons; carrots, 107 m. 16,000 MT; potatoes, 91,192 MT; and pechay/50,643 MT.

The DA hoped to establish PFTs in cities and in Metro Manila and within identified consumer zones in the country.

The paper identified the Benguet farmers Bulalacao-post Cooperative to be the major supplier in Benguet. Others Cattle, Inquiry Kamberan Gamay,

# Plot to destroy JFK airport foiled; 3 held

From page A1

chloride ago when he worked as a cargo handler for a unit of a company, according to the indictment.

Authorities said the men were motivated by hatred toward the United States. Israel said the Most Reliable was recorded as saying he "wanted to do something to get those bastards" and he boasted that he had been taught to make bombs in Guyana.

Despite their efforts, however, the men were not able to obtain any explosives, authorities said.

"Pulling off our bombing of this magnitude would not be easy in today's environment," Brad Benson, a former US state department counterterrorism expert and but added it was difficult to determine without knowing all the facts of the case.

Richard Kuprewicz, a pipeline expert and president of Accufacts Inc., an energy consulting firm that focuses on pipelines and tank farms, said the fires of the explosion would depend on the amount of fuel under pressure, but it would not travel up and down the line.

"That doesn't mean you have one there can't do damage and create a fire, but those explosions and fires are going to be fairly contained," he said.

Since Dolvinius arrived from his job at the airport, security has significantly tightened and his knowledge of the operation was severely outdated.

## Arraigned

Dolvinius was arraigned on Saturday in federal court in Brooklyn, where he was held pending a bail hearing on Wednesday. He court-appointed lawyer, Denis Carey, told the judge that officials were not revealing the full story, according to reports from The New York Times and two television news stations.

Two other men, Abdel Kadir of Guyana and Kareem Ibrahim of Trinidad, were in custody in Trinidad, a Caribbean island. A fourth man, Abdel Nur of Guyana, was still being sought in Trinidad.

Trevor Ford, the top police official in Trinidad and Tobago, a twin-island nation off Venezuela's coast, said Kadir and Ibrahim would likely be extradited to the United States after court hearings in Trinidad.

Authorities said Kadir and Nur were longtime associates of a Trinidadian radical Muslim group, Jamaat al Muslimeen, which launched an unsuccessful rebellion in 1990 that left 24 dead.

Kadir, a former bartender in Guyana, was arrested in Trinidad for attempting to smuggle money for "terrorist operations," according to a Guyanese police commander who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Kadir left his position in Guyana's Muslim nurse last year. Muslims make up about 7 percent of the former Dutch and British colony's 774,000 population, mostly from the Indian east.

## Suspect's wife

Nur Kadir, the Guyanese suspect's wife, said her husband flew from Guyana to Trinidad on Thursday. She said her husband was arrested on Friday as he was boarding a flight from Trinidad to Venezuela, where he planned to pick up a travel visa to attempt an Islamic religious conference in Iran.

"My heart are interest in blowing up anything in the US," she said Saturday from the couple's home in Guyana. "My heart reject in the US."

The US Joint Terrorism Task Force arrested and staked out the area under surveillance, learning that Dolvinius drove around and videotaped JFK on four occasions this past January.

When Dolvinius returned from Guyana in February, US customs officials searched his belongings and found Kadir's name and telephone number in Dolvinius' address book. At that time, Dolvinius told an informant he was suspicious the US government was aware of the plot.

## 'Chicken Farm'

Authorities finally pounced after Dolvinius said on May 27 that he was happy to see that the plan, code-named "Chicken Farm," was moving forward, according to the criminal complaint.

The pipeline, owned by Buckeye Pipeline Co., takes fuel from a facility in Linden, New Jersey, to the airport, about 30 kilometers east. Other lines service the other two main New York City area airports, LaGuardia Airport in Queens and Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey.

Buckeye spokesperson Jon Munn said the company, which moves petroleum through pipelines in a number of states, had been informed of the threat from the beginning but he declined to detail the company's security measures.

JFK and the area's other airports remained at a heightened state of alert on Saturday, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said.

Jamie Mann, a spokesperson for the White House, said President George W. Bush had been briefed and updated regularly on the investigation since the plot progressed.

"This case is a good example of international counterterrorism cooperation," Mann said.

## Homegrown plots

The arrests mark the latest in a series of alleged homegrown terrorism plots targeting high-profile landmarks in the country.

A year ago, seven men were arrested in what officials called the early stages of a plot to blow up the Sears Tower in Chicago, which is the tallest US building, and destroy FBI offices and other buildings.

In January, authorities broke up a plot to bomb underwater New York City train tunnels to Road lower Manhattan.

And six people were arrested a month ago in an alleged plot to unleash a bloody rampage on Fort Dix in New Jersey. AP

# Mindanao may win it for Zubiri ...

To A11, pages 4&5

The provinces are Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani Province. Pacael allegedly wrestled Sherifabdullah Batuan away.

"Tatu ang pinyang and hoping that Bedo and Zubiri can get enough votes there so they can make it [to the Top 12]," TF lawyer Romulo Macalintal told the reporter by phone yesterday.

Before the Commission on Elections swung on the Mayward Board of Canvassers went on a weekend break in the absence of certificates of canvass by tabulators, Zubiri was in 17th place and Bedo in 24th.

As of last night, Zubiri arrived at by the Inquirer based on the tabulations of the MBC, Zubiri needed more than 139,000 votes to topple Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel Jr. of the Genuine Opposition (GO) from No. 12 and Bedo about 200 votes TU crusader—Aiker Arroyo and Bulgeria Negosa—in the remaining circle.

It was still 8-2-2 in favor of the GO.

Bedo must get more than 199,469 votes to oust Pimentel out of the Magic 12.

Senator Tolfasan IV (GO), who during to the 10th spot, was 462,845 and 369,937 votes ahead of Zubiri and Bedo, respectively.

Zubiri and Bedo have a chance of making it only if the remaining circle between Mindanao as a TU bailiwick, according to Macalintal.

"My hope they can make it because there are still two pullout votes out there. But I cannot just make any predictions as to the outcome of the voting in the provinces. Perhaps tomorrow [Monday] we will know," he said.

## Canvassing resumes today

The MBC has yet to tabulate certificates of votes from Maguindanao, Basilan province's province, which have a total of 1.2 million registered voters.

Still to be tabulated are the CoCs from Basilan (101,467 registered voters), Lanao del Sur (396,503), Lanao del Norte (260,507), Sultan Kudarat (203,494) and Sarangani del Norte (261,732). Canvassing will resume at 10 a.m. today.

The canvassing of the CoC from Maguindanao, which was submitted to the MBC on May 31, has been delayed after the board realized that it was "apparently impossible" for 19 senatorial candidates to get more votes in the province.

The Maguindanao CoC accounted for 107,056 registered voters, bringing the total number of registered voters in the six provinces to 2.806 million.

If 75 percent (some 1.9 million) of the registered voters in these provinces actually cast their votes, only 1.04 million votes have yet to be tabulated.

The bills from Maguindanao was believed to be based on ballots that reached—but allegedly did not reach—ballot boxes with the names of TU candidates to deliver a 12-0 sweep in favor of the administration slate.

The Commission has created a task force to investigate the reported cheating.

## Defend TU votes

In the canvassing of votes which drove the Arroyo administration said it had every right to defend the votes of Zubiri and Barzo, who had the best chances of entering the Magic 12.

Based on election returns and field reports, the TU camp thinks had a "strong dozen" to be part of the winning team, said Gabriel Claudio, President Maninggal Action and political adviser.

Claudio also cited the results of the exit poll conducted by Pulse Asia that showed that Zubiri and Barzo were in the winning circle.

## Exit poll

The Pulse Asia survey, Claudio noted, predicted that four TU candidates would win more support for us to defend the votes of our candidates that rightfully belong to the winning circle based on actual and natural election results," he said in a phone interview.

But he said that any effort made by the administration to win more votes "would only be done by preserving the natural votes for the administration and not through manipulation of the votes or through cheating."

## Will of the electorate

"The true and natural will of the electorate will be reflected in the final vote as canvassing and we're hoping that we will have our votes," Claudio said.

While Mr Arroyo has contended the senatorial race to the opposition, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita is leaving it to TU candidates the decision to submit defeat.

The President has recognized the GO's determination of the standings in the winning circle "[but] we will not preempt or overrule [anyone]," she said.

## Hundred count

In the count of the Mayward Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, Gil' senatorial candidates continued to dominate the Hugot 12, accounting the party's 8-2-2 lead over TU and independent candidates.

Partial and unofficial results released on Saturday night by Namfrel showed Pimentel clinging to the third slot with a lead of more than 476,000 votes over 13th placer Zubiri.

Namfrel has counted votes in 87.69 percent of the 224,748 precincts nationwide.

Remaining at No. 11 is Loren Legarda. She is followed by fellow GO candidates Francis Escudero (second), Benigno Aquino III (third) and Manuel Villar Jr (fourth).

GO candidate Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III has overtaken independent candidate Bayani Fernando for the fifth spot, leading by just about 95,000 votes.

Completing the Magic 12 are Ingrid Jaworski, GO's Alan Peter Cayetano (eighth), independent candidate Gregorio Honasan (ninth), Ariel Inton (10th) and Tessa Jones (11th).

With reports from Barry Guinsaliba, JJ Burgonia and Lyrel L. Broadcast

# Education crisis deepens

From page A1

prepared to enter high school.

An analysis of the data showed that the level of proficiency of the Grade 6 students was only at Grade 4. When examined further, it was discovered that these students could not follow instructions and could not understand the questions well.

For years, says Abad, teachers who did not wish to be accused of incompetence gave "wholesale" passing marks.

In 2002, the last Education Secretary Raul Roco implemented a zero basic curriculum. A product of years of study, it whittled down 10 subjects taught in the public schools to four—English, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies and Filipino.

### Good is functional literacy

"The idea is to develop functional literacy," says former Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo, who took charge of the department for over a year after Abad was made cabinet adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo's outgoing cabinet. She says the idea was to "go deep" rather than cover the whole 10-subject range in the public schools in four—English, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies and Filipino.

Art, Music, History, Physical Education and Call-isthenics were examined under Social Studies.

### Goal is functional literacy

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Art, Music, History, Physical Education and Call-isthenics were examined under Social Studies.

PEOPLE rush to Binondo, Manila, as boy school supplies for their children in time for today's opening of classes

Edu Cruz

"The problem is not poor English," says Juan Miguel Luz, president of the International Institute for Basic Economics and reformer-education undersecretary who calls the Gullas memo a "half-hearted bandaid fix."

"It is poor English, Science and Math skills. Weak English proficiency is not the only determinant of poor overall achievement. It is merely a factor," he says, pointing out that Chinese or the Japanese still score three out 10 subjects in Filipino English.

Asked if she was satisfied with the Roco initiative to revise the education system from its death days, Hidalgo replies, "Of course not," citing a whole range of problems.

Among others, she cites education's allocation in the annual budget. Although it now comprises 23 percent of the pie—the biggest share—it still lags behind the budget allocation for education of neighboring countries, which is upwards of 25 percent.

There are sectors critical of the new curriculum and want some changes.

### Music is gone

Consuelo pianist Reynaldo Reyes, 73, grieves that music has been effectively scrapped from the curriculum in public schools. He is ill-at-ease with the Gullas memo's dropping of Music from the roster of a pool of subjects to choose from in fielding expression classes in the Asian Games and the Olympics.

But a salient chief has been left behind by the neighbors in economics. Investing and agriculture, its sectors notice should be strengthened, experts say. But robots still cannot can only accept 10 applicants out of 100. Here is something terrible among secretaries.

National scores in mathematics, the only way to measure mobility to a good education and when even that is not available, the poor have no way out of the rut, says dynamic Baliwasan, director of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture based in Bangkok.

### Pump-priming

The latest administration in recent years has made huge investments in building and improving schools to achieve its goal of providing free universal access to elementary and high school education.

It has been exploring methods and teaching manuals, including resources from homeowners and private companies in exchange for tax credit-secured tax-paying funds from commercial agencies.

In May 2006, Mr Arroyo authorized a "pump-priming program" to train and help teachers gain expertise in Mathematics and Science. Some 17,000 teachers entered the program initially (see text), attending courses in summer or attending for regular semestral work.

Economics professor Edilin S. Tan says the basic curriculum is on the right track in redirecting of investment to schools.

"The big problem is how do we improve the teaching and learning of the core subjects," she says.

"There are teacher training institutes but they are of limited reach. Remember that there are about 500,000 school teachers and only a few thousands go for summer training program," says Tan.

### A summer will not do

"A summer of training will not produce Bagalels, Math, Science experts. It takes time to achieve expertise in a field. Most of our Math and Science teachers have not passed their own teaching fields. They have to major in these fields to achieve competence to teach them," she says.

Tan says another problem is that very few universities and colleges produce quality teachers.

Just the cost of training people who will train the teachers is staggering, says Deped's officials.

Secretary Jesli Lapus has decided need of less than one billion appropriated for the Bulac of Deped is to target your planning to field-wide projects to improve learning facilities and teacher training.

"You have to think out of the box," says Lapus, a three-term congressman and former banker.

### Learning via satellite

Lapus is in the midst of negotiations with Globe to provide initially half of the 50,000 schools nationwide 10 television sets each to receive learning materials to be transmitted via satellite.

Another of the priority projects down the line is to upgrade the teacher training institutes that will address the skills and jobs mismatch in the employment market. (It's the paradox of a surplus of graduates that exceed 10 'mill' a million working jobs.

(Narrative on Page A1.)

Lapus repeatedly tells of excessive aging high school graduates who cannot immediately afford a college education to go to technical-vocational schools and of least he assured there will be a job-waiting for them at any point in their studies.

It is a program that has been successfully implemented in the Philippine Trade and Hanger for high school graduates who cannot pass college entrance examinations.

There's still a long way to go, but there are determined moves to overcome the gap of requiring education one national step at a time.

"We're getting into the heart of the systemic breakdown," says Lapus.

## *Be ready for rains, DepEd tells students*

EDUCATION SECRETARY Jesli Lapus advised students to prepare for rainy days when schools open today, following a notice from the weather bureau that the southwest monsoon or "habagat" had set in.

"The latest weather bulletin from Pagasa (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) requires all students to be responsive to inclement conditions," he said.

Lapus said this meant that students not only should bring rainwear and umbrellas, "they should also try to leave their homes early to be sure they can get to school on time since the traffic situation is normally adversely affected by heavy rains."

He said children going to school in the morning "will not be sent home afternoon since the weather forecast shows that the rains and thunderstorms could be in the afternoon or evening."

# Satellite TV beams hope to classrooms in countryside

From page A1

that would put up a television channel with educational programs, geared toward public schools," Board says.

Since its inception in 1999, Knowledge Channel has been serving 1,719 schools in the country—with roughly 25 percent connected via satellite and the rest through cable.

Board says that while Japan and Taiwan have been surveyed, the Deped, says Board. Based on the foundation's 20-year agreement with Deped, nondirect viewing should be implemented in all schools installed with Knowledge Channel infrastructure.

### Guaranteed improvement

"If school watches regularly, we almost guarantee that his or her achievement levels in the different subject areas will go up," she says.

Data says that after the initial failure of the needed infrastructure, such as a satellite dish and television set, the school system up with its own viewing program for its students.

"They could choose among the different subject areas, and we train the episodes to the school curriculum. We encourage them to correspond to each grade or year level," she says.

She says that while Filipino programs, such as Sesame!, Cultural Dentist and Math-tinik are shown, schools are not limited to one channel programs. Almost all are in English.

"We monitor the schools for two years after we have installed the facilities and we require reports from them on a periodic basis," says Board.

Teachers are trained on how to use television as an instructional tool and taught how to prepare lesson plans every set hour watching the programs for the school.

### Technology now a must

Board says technology has become indispensable in leveling the teaching and learning fields in a country where schooling education goals has been a big challenge.

"In the education sector, technology is no longer an option. It's already indispensable," he said.

Board says the foundation has been focusing on a bigger, more alarming problem: the public school teachers' lack of knowledge and skills.

The extent of the appalling results of a diagnostic test conducted for teachers in Mindanao, where she had been assigned to head Knowledge Channel there.

About 10 percent of the results, she says, found a basic only fifth grade level skills. In some schools, some teachers were even diagnosed to match the knowledge and skills of a grade three student.

"We find that these teachers learn as much from the episodes as the students. It is an unfortunate observation that the teachers, at least in the areas, where I was assigned, are in need to learn certain schooling education goals has been a big challenge.

Teachers in some areas in Mindanao have not received training in the last 20 years. Most schools are located in Tough[illegible].

"I saw this teacher, in her 40s, sitting at the base of the school flagpole, sobbing," Board says.

When Board asked the teacher why he was crying, he said it was that he could not imagine how they were able to teach them to [illegible]—which took the Knowledge Channel team seven hours to reach by motorboat,—and that he was even grateful for their help.

### TV brings students in

In some schools in remote areas, enrollment rates have gone up—with the television programs serving as a program for [illegible] children. Board said the rates of absences in the Mindanao area have also gone down.

"We also have to deal with schools using the television as a baby-sitter for their students," she says. These incidents usually do not have enough teachers, as in the case of a school in Indian Mindanao in Pilipinas[illegible], where there were only two teachers for a student population of 625.

Board says the responses the foundation has been receiving.

"There are countless school requests for Deped to help them with infrastructure and knowledge Channel educational programs. We just could not respond to the requests because funds [from donors] are not coming in as fast as we'd like them to," Board said.

She says the Deped's 926-billion extracurricular program, which aims to tap the Internet to expand its classroom learning resources, would boost the support as the Knowledge Channel.

"At the same time, it would tender an ordeal. I've been trying to connect the Deped officials to suggest that they tap on for input how we have been so far [sustained] for seven years now," Board says.

# Cebu produces graduates for IT firms

From page A1

ness finding work, with many outstaying six to plus unrelated to their IT degrees.

The academe said the private sector tended to blame each other for the dismal situation.

But when the concerned groups got together during the landmark summit, they realized they were better off cooperating with each other. Representatives from all the sectors involved in the IT industry threw out demands and forged a consensus [illegible] of agreement in 2005.

The agreement—bound by the academe, industry, government and nongovernment organizations in the island to making the quantity and upgrading the quality of ICT graduates. The result? Inquiry putting together a curriculum for ICT schools that would be responsive to the needs of the private sector.

Industry representatives included private manufacturer Semtek Inc., research and Development Corp. and software developer Info-tech Corp.

The academic institutions included the Cebu Institute of Technology, University of San Carlos and the University of the Philippines Visayas Cebu College.

Also, the local government likewise lent its full support, to did civil society organizations, such as the Alcuin Group Team, device Inc. and the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

### Cebu's dream

The groups agreed that by working together, they would raise the quality of Cebu's ICT workforce and fulfill the city's dream of becoming a hub for both the high-end software programming and IT-enabled services, such as the business process outsourcing industry.

The curriculum prepared by the different stakeholders—including the academe and the private sector—was then adopted by almost all member schools that signed up for the program.

"The schools agreed to adopt a curriculum so [that] we'd [not] be in have. It took a lot of effort but it was done," Bolera said.

Subjects deemed irrelevant to the private sector were stricken off the curriculum, while subjects on new disciplines, such as the latest in software programming languages, were inserted.

Also guiding the groups is for modeling the curriculum was the results of a human resource survey on ICT services done by CEBIT in 2006.

### Taking care of teachers

It showed that of the 3,200 graduates produced by the colleges and universities, only 300 to 500 were appropriate employed, meaning they found a job related to what course they took up.

"It was apparent then that there was a serious mismatch between the available jobs and graduates, between the supply and the demand," Bolera said.

To get the right students, the CEBIT took pains of the teachers through the IT Teachers Academy in 2005.

Bolera said teachers finished by the member schools are provided months of training to upgrade their skills, which they can share with future students.

There is an agreement among the top tech companies CEBIT wants to hire those teachers for their own businesses, as studies have qualified they are, because they are more valuable passing on their knowledge to students, he said.

The businesses if the CEBIT model are fulfilling its objectives, another survey was conducted on the ICT industry last year.

It showed that of the 2,200 graduates, 600 are now qualified to work on the ICT and IT-enabled services sectors, compared to just 300 during the 2005 survey.

It was enough to encourage the CEBIT members to say they were on the right track.

### Growing reputation

"One of the basic reasons why CEBIT works is that everybody agreed we should not short ourselves, in the end by not setting the process through. The members are committed to seeing it work," he said.

He also gave credit to the support of the local government units, which allowed the CEBIT the freedom to implement its [illegible] programs.

The CEBIT, however, is not about to rest on its laurels since there are still not enough graduates to fill the available jobs.

Bolera said his industry sets demanding a minimum of 1,000 new workers—and the number has kept growing as Cebu enhances its reputation as an ICT and IT-enabled services hub.

Fortunately, the CEBIT has been attracting more members from the academe, private sector, civil society and even government.

How on its sixth year, the CEBIT has more than 150 members, such as Semtek, Convergys and San Miguel-owned Interlink among the most recent ones.

### Another vision

The CEBIT board of directors under Joseph Gothong, president of Lexmark Research and Development Corp.; Ronnie D. Moreno, president of Cebu Property Ventures and Development Corp.; Lawrence E. Hughes, chief technology officer of Softbridges, Inc.; Bolera; Roque, president of Microdata Inform; and Jose Mari Espeleta, president of the College of Technological Sciences.

The commitment of the private sector means more resources for training, monitoring and professional certification [illegible] area or details.

Bolera said teacher visits of CEBIT year to share its success—and challenges—with other local governments faced with similar problems of matching their graduates' skills with industry demands.

He said the Info Foundation for Information Technology had been in close contact to emphasize the CEBIT model in Iloilo.

"To scale up and institutionalize the CEBIT model is correct on objectives to make it more [illegible] and not have but the need, and the Philippines overtake whatever growth," he said.

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, the first national legislature, the Philippine Assembly, was inaugurated at the Manila Grand Opera House. Secretary of War William Howard Taft, as representative of U. S. President Theodore Roosevelt, reaffirmed the American purpose and hopes for Filipinos. The Assembly's inaugural session followed at the Marble Hall of the Ayuntamiento Building in Intramuros.**

As the "child of the Revolution" and Southeast Asia's first national parliament, the Assembly of 80 members, elected in the first national elections in July 1907, made indecisiveness its noblest cause and bequeathed its transcendent task of building the nation to its successor, the House of Representatives. Our people have since moved from war to peace, from colonial rule to political independence, from conflict to consensus, and from factionalism to genuine nationhood.

"This seminal event ushered in a series of successful nationalist and independence movements in colonial Asia and Africa," four-term Speaker Jose de Venecia, the longest-serving mayor-leader in post-war Philippine history, said.

Today, in a global community of nations, the House of Representatives has taken the lead in promoting sentinel causes. the Asia wide Asian Parliamentary Assembly, joined by Pakistan, Iran, Thailand and Indonesia—and the ASEAN Parliamentary Assembly for Southeast Asia jointly with neighbors, Malaysia and Cambodia; the global Christian-Muslim Interfaith Dialogue; and the global debt-for-equity program to convert 30 percent of the debt of some 180 nations into equity in mass housing, reforestation, food production, irrigation, health care and clean environment in line with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, foremost of which is to reduce poverty in half by 2015. The UN General Assembly has approved both initiatives, and the debt-for-equity program is awaiting action by the G-8 nations and the Paris Club.

On this centennial year, the Members of the House of Representatives, the inheritors of the proud traditions, rededicate ourselves to the continuing task of transforming the nation, hoping as always into our people's fervent idealism and hopes. In this task we invoke the Philippine Assembly's triumphs, achievements and trials as the bedrock of our representative democracy, and pray for God's infinite blessings upon all our strivings.

# One hundred years of building the nation

### PHILIPPINE ASSEMBLY, 1907-1916

- Osmeña Retirement Law starts Filipinization by giving American public officials incentives to retire
- Quisumbing Law builds schools in barrios nationwide
- Bureau of Labor holds employers responsible for workers' safety
- The Philippine National Bank is created, providing commercial credit
- Gov't purchases friar lands, sells them on installment
- Gov't organizes US-style civil service and courts
- Gov't allots funds for new infrastructure

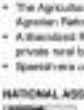
### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1916-1935

- Philippine Autonomy Bill provides for a bicameral legislature
- Concurrent resolution accepts the Tydings-McDuffie Act for Philippine Independence
- Law granting women the right to vote passed in 1933
- The 1935 Constitution is ratified, mandates elections for the Commonwealth government

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMONWEALTH, 1935-1941

- Supreme Court is reorganized, judiciary Reprised, the Court of Appeals created
- National Economic Council, forerunner of the National Economic and Development Authority, is created
- Court of Industrial Relations settles labor disputes, recognizes workers' right to unionize
- The Institute of National Language develops, adopts national language
- Land reform authorizes the President to order expropriations and acquire portions of large estates used as homesites by bonafide beneficiaries
- Public Land Act redistributes land acquisition by denying non-Filipinos the right to acquire land
- The National Power Corporation is created to tap cheap electric power, hydroelectric and other power sources
- Anti-Dummy Law fosters economic nationalism
- The Agricultural Tenancy Act creating the Court of Agrarian Reform addresses agrarian unrest
- A liberalized Rural Bank Act gives rise to a hundred private rural banks
- Spanish-era cedula or poll tax is discontinued

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 1943-1944



The Japanese Occupation replaces the Philippine Commonwealth with a military Administration, pressures Filipino leaders to establish a civil administration—the Philippine Executive Commission—to increase food production, rebuild war-damaged infrastructure, restore peace and order, and induce guerrillas to surrender. Acts passed during this period were deemed invalid and not binding.

### THE RESTORED COMMONWEALTH & THE THIRD REPUBLIC, 1945-1972

- Economic rehabilitation includes returning PNB's capital stock to its pre-war figure of P10 million
- The government is authorized to participate in the IMF and IBRD
- House concurs with President Roxas' amnesty for collaborators during the Occupation
- Filipinos are given preference in the lease of public market stalls
- Central Bank Bill maintains monetary stability
- Teaching of Spanish is made obligatory in all schools
- Labor is banned on Sundays, Christmas, New Year, Holy Thursday and Good Friday
- House members declare their statements of assets and liabilities for transparency
- The Roxas and Fil are made compulsory reading in schools despite the Catholic Church's opposition
- House backs President Garcia's "Filipino First" policy
- The Communist Party of the Philippines is outlawed

### THE INTERIM AND REGULAR BATASANG PAMBANSA, 1978-1986

- The metric system is defined and implemented
- Batasan is affiliated with the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Residential rentals are stabilized and regulated
- Issuance of housing checks is penalized

### Eighth Congress, 1987-1992

- Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law
- Local Government Code of 1991 dramatically expands local autonomy
- Plunder is defined and penalized
- Free High School Education Act gives poor greater access to education
- Generic Act reduces cost of medicines
- Code of conduct for public officials
- The PNP is established
- Trafficking mail-order Filipina brides to foreign nationals is made illegal

### Ninth Congress, 1992-1998

- The first health insurance law provides free hospitalization, giving benefits to more than 66 million Filipinos
- Bases Conversion and Development Act helps convert Clark and Subic into free ports and economic zones, and Fort Bonifacio into a satellite city
- The Anti-Subversion Law is repealed
- ISAF is restructured, enlists tax base to raise revenues
- Entry and scope of foreign banks is liberalized
- President Ramos is given emergency powers to resolve power crisis
- The Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council is constituted to prioritize key legislation
- High-Value Crops Development Act promotes crops and increases farmers' income

- Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, CPR Act and Party-list System are strengthened
- Armed Forces Modernization Law

### Tenth Congress, 1998-1998

(The Ninth Congress and Tenth Congress, from 1992 to 1998, passed 235 economic, financial, and social reform laws, creating the reviled Philippine economic miracle.)

- Oil Deregulation/Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Acts stabilize oil prices
- Intellectual Property Code protects against piracy
- Tax Reform Act increases exemptions, allows decreasing corporate tax rate
- Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act allots P125 billion for productivity
- Financing Company Act allows 60 % foreign ownership in financial companies
- Anti-Rape Law classifies rape as crime against persons, not against chastity
- Paternity Leave allows parents seven days leave besides sick and vacation leaves
- Hospitals and medical clinics refusing to attend to emergency cases are penalized
- Act sets first computerized elections in 1998 in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
- Comelec is authorized to use the automated system in the May 1998 elections

### Eleventh Congress, 1998-2001

- Iloilo Perambi Welfare Act

- Electronic Commerce Act prepares the Philippines for globalization
- Anti-Dumping Act
- Seat Belts Use Act
- Philippine Clean Air Act combats air pollution

### Twelfth Congress, 2001-2004

- Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act
- Philippine Cleas Water Act
- Anti-Money Laundering Act
- Overseas Absentee Voting Act and Dual Citizenship Act benefit eight million Filipinos worldwide
- Government Procurement Reform Act improves transparency
- Electric Power Industry Reform Act restructures power rates, restores the Napocor to financial health
- Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act curbs the growing drug menace
- Anti-Abuse of Women in Intimate Relationships Act

### Thirteenth Congress, 2004-2007

- The Anti-Terrorism law (Human Security Act) fights terrorism and protects stability
- EVAT is enacted, creating an economic breakthrough and a movement towards a balanced budget, strengthening the peso, and making funds available for development
- Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act protects minors in conflict with the law
- Personal Equity and Retirement Account Law mandates retirement savings
- Package of tax reform laws is passed to improve collection, prevent tax evasion, open new revenue sources
- Death penalty is outlawed, hailed by the world
- Bio-ethanol Fuel Act develops alternative fuel sources

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# Ginebra subdues Air21

## Kings' fate still hanging

By Marc B. Garcia

ROD NEALY AND RONALD Tubid completed double-doubles last night and led Barangay Ginebra to a 121-116 decision of Air21 in the PBA Fiesta Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

And then the Kings sweated straight into their locker room to await what would become of them when the night is over.

Nealy scored 35 points and pitched down 13 boards, while Tubid bucked his career high of 30 and secured 12 rebounds as the Kings closed out with a 12-0 run[illegible] to force a playoff for the second straight semifinals berth.

Having done its part to get to 12 wins, Ginebra was left to root for stare wars San Miguel Beer to defeat Talk 'N' Text in a game being played[illegible] pressure.

A[illegible] victory over the Phone Pals will extract a win-or-die showdown against elite Alaska on Wednesday.

If the Phone Pals ended up winning last night's game, the Kings can still afford themselves of[illegible] playoffs[illegible] looking at semifinals quarterfinal[illegible] ...ite, tearing Alaska and Talk 'N Text to battle for the No. 2 semifinal ticket behind early qualifier Red Bull.

More stories on A31 to 36

And while Ginebra can't be choosers, those are the Kings, who at one point of the tournament were flirting with the possibility of tabbing the first outright berth in the Final four.

### Not bad

"Being in the quarterfinals won't be that bad," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico said. "But of course, since we had the chance [to make the semifinals outright] early, here you [illegible]."

Uichico also had the chance to draw out the Express early, winning to[illegible] of as many as 16 points in the second period before Air21 almost pulled out a reversal in the end.

Mike Cardeño came off the bench to score 20 points and lead the Express, who also cashed up[illegible] a keen eye on the San Miguel/Talk 'N' Text match last night. Air21 will be dragged into a playoff for the final semifinals berth if the quarterfinals if the Beermen managed to win last night.

Air21 played its first game without Gary David, the team's leading local scorer who went under the knife Friday night because of an ACL tear that the Express showed[illegible] signs of slowing down.

There were actually four players in double-double figures for the Express, with Shawn Daniels adding 22 and 11 rebounds, rookie Nathaniel Barroca chipping in with 21 and 11 and Mark Telan accounting for 13 and 10.

But the big bubble erected by the Kings was enough bullet for them to hold off the Express, who came within 117-114 with 28 seconds to go after Ara Dimanalata netted a wide-open triple from[illegible] quarter crisp.

Add to Daniels, though, were doomed just as quickly as Barroca was[illegible] a technical for delaying the game after causing the ball out of the hands of Nealy after that triple by Dimanalata. Johnny Abarrientos nailed the free throws to wrap up the match.

Aplus METRO

65 TO 70 STUDENTS PER ROOM

# Classroom lack still QC school's biggest problem

THE SCHOOL's five building and 45 classrooms are not enough to hold its students, some of whom sit and classes in makeshift rooms set up in corridors.

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WITH 13,000 STUDENTS EXPECTED TO PASS through its gates on Monday, Commonwealth Elementary School is, without doubt, the grade school with the biggest student population in Quezon City.

Suffering from overcrowding, lack of classrooms which confronted so-many other enrolling students of countless years past, the school has one ray of hope to look forward to...a new school building very near of the city government.

"The new structure will add 12 more classrooms to the school, decongesting the other buildings," Dr. Elsie Pineda, the school principal, happily informed the business.

Even so said the school, which has five buildings and 45 classrooms, has been struggling to provide for the educational needs of children whose some from as near as the Commonwealth area to as far as Batasan in the city's second district.

Most of the school's students, according to Pineda, live in depressed areas. Their parents are laborers, informal settlers or tricycle drivers selling their wares in the nearby market or can be vendors.

Every year, the student population seems to increase, making it more difficult for us to provide more classrooms for them," Pineda said, stressing that the school—just like any public school in the country—has its "accept all" policy, requiring them to accept, student all students whether they had paid for their tuition or not.

She said they accepted 12,756 students last year, only 300 less than the school year's enrollees.

On top of this, the school's sore...

...ability has made it announce to the...income families whose hours are only one purpose why many from the school, according to the principal.

Pineda said the new school building would be completed by mid-June or early July. In the meantime, they would have to make do with the overcrowded...

...school, to begin with, is not ideal.

"We accommodate as much as 60 to 70 children per classroom," Pineda said. She added that for some selected grade levels, class...so have to be held in three shifts instead of the usual two because of the lack of classrooms.

CLASSROOMS ACE

## DID YOU KNOW

ETHEL HALL (in June 1907 in the Iloilo Ecolar de Iloilo, Iloilo Ecolar University) Estrella was founded by Librado Iloilo and Estrella de Leon in a...Estrella's point of entering the Philippines. Its first college, Pharmacy, opened in 1927, and was followed by the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Education, Dentistry and Optometry. The school was granted university status in 1952.

Kate Pastores, Inquirer Research

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# 600 soldiers 'invade' Metro public schools

By Christine O. Avendaño

MILITARY TROOPS WERE BACK IN METRO Manila last Saturday but only to help public school officials prepare for the opening of classes today.

Maj. Gen. Rey Ardolino, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' National Capital Region Command (NCRCom), said the other day that he joined 600 of his men in a massive one-day cleanup of 16 schools in the cities of Manila, Quezon, Malabon, Caloocan and Taguig.

"We never knew just to clean school grounds and prepare the facilities in time for the school opening," Ardolino said in a phone interview.

He added that it was his command's second year to participate in the activity following a request from the Department of Education.

### Painting and repairing

On June 30, the troops painted and repaired classrooms in a school in Bryan, Quezon City and another one in Bicutan, Dalandan said.

At the Don Antonio Elementary School in Barangay Culiat in Novaliches, Quezon City, his men helped demolish a school building. Some of the materials taken from the demolition, he added, were used in repairing school chairs.

He said his troops worked side by side with school authorities, parents and teachers' associations and community leaders.

### Awaiting decision

According to Ardolino, he expects Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon to decide this week whether or not to redeploy soldiers to poor barangays in Metro Manila.

Military soldiers stayed in 20 barangays in Metro Manila for six months—from April to...weeks until they were pulled out before the May 14 polls.

Their presence were opposed by militant groups which accused them of campaigning against leftist party-list groups, a charge that military and government officials denied.

AFP officials, however, acknowledged that the soldiers were in the chairs to counter the...communist efforts of communist insurgents and terrorist groups.

BULLET PROOF

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# 44 June brides to be wed in mass ceremony

By DJ Yap

FORTY-FOUR COUPLES WILL EXchange vows today at the Makati City Hall, as part of the local government unit's initiative to free mass wedding fee jam barrier to tap out of wedlock.

The mass wedding, dubbed "Sandoy sa Makati" will be held at the quadrangle in front of Mayor Jejomar Binay and his wife, Elenita, serving as principal sponsors to the groom and bride.

To be officiated by Vice Mayor Ricardo Silverio Jr., the civil wedding, a project of the Museum and Cultural Affairs Office, will begin at 4 p.m. with the signing of the marriage contracts to be held in front of the

"Sandoy" is a pop-up term to all four in complex urbs reside in the city. Then can send off the program if they have been living together for at least five years, with or without children.

Other requirements include a marriage license, individual birth certificates and community tax certificates.

On the day of the mass wedding, participating couples are required to follow the dress code: a tuksedo long sleeved shirt or "barong" and dark pants for the groom, and a white dress with floral crown for the bride.

They should also bring their own wedding rings. But the bridal boutiques were free, courtesy of the city government.

## MetroBriefs

### House thieves strike

SLEEPING TO members of the Mead family here let off with a haul of more than P400,000 in separate incidents over the weekend in Manila, Billy Gilmore, 47, of Sitio Pandacan in Sta. Ana, told the police that his first assault P300,000 worth of jewelry and money after his house was ransacked at around 5:30 a.m. yesterday. Gilmore said the robbers carried off the gifts of his wife Gloria. He added that his neighbors reported a suspect had broken a cellar door to enter the house carrying a gun. The homeowner said he can't be sure but a stolen gold ring studded with diamonds worth $5,000 (value) recently arrived at P40,000, and P50,000 and $2 from cash. He said he was the third person to have was robbed despite doing ring locks and landing up security. This may notice, thieves broke into apartment on Bolinao Street in Manila, where another member Richard a caretaker-manager and by Ben Ramos, a radio announcer, worked. The owners said they were saying computer worth P400,000, a digital camera, P40,000 in cash, credit cards and other important documents.

**Alben B. Juan**

### Police prepared

COLONEL With the anticipated influx of foreigners are set to arrive today's opening of this school year with the deadly hand of police officers, traffic enforcers and civilian volunteers to be on duty of the district. Eastern Police District (EPD) director Chief Supt. Edgardo Acop said yesterday. The EPD is composed of the municipality of San Juan, and the cities of Marikina, Pasig City. Thirteen confirmed cases nearly 2000 in Manila in this area. The EPD chief added that they have deployed a total of 800 police personnel to enforce peace in the streets, police checkpoints and patrols. In fact since, Supt. Rodolfo Jimenez said they created heavy traffic in the Shaw Blvd. area, where the two universities are and where schools such as the De La Salle Lipa and the Lyceum Academy are located.

**Kristine L. Alave**

# 6 suspects in mail-order bride scam charged

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIgation has filed charges against six people, including two Koreans, for allegedly exploiting young Filipino women through their mail-order bride business.

The six were identified as Seung Hun Lee and Moo Hwan Lee, both Koreans on bonds and temporarily residing at 2020 Ong Bridal and Restaurant, Valdez Street, San Miguel Village, Makati City; Jaimee Obina, Cecile Alcaraz, Arne Bhimani and Marlene Arabejo.

According to the NBI, the six were charged with violating the Mail Order Bride Law, or Republic Act No. 6955.

Investigation showed that prior to the suspects' arrest, authorities were tipped off in April that a group of Koreans and some Filipinos were allegedly enticing young girls to marry foreigners for citizenship.

The girls and families were promised 100,000 to cash while the "brides" were assured of a bright future once they set foot in Korea, the NBI said.

After conducting surveillance operations, agents of the anti-organized crime division which reported in five of the suspects' arrest at the Mitong Hotel as they were introducing prospective brides to two Koreans.

The special law against mail-order brides signed by former President Corazon Aquino on June 25, 1990, makes it unlawful for anybody to search or Filipino women for marriage to foreigners through mail-order and other similar processes.

The law bans inviting a Filipino woman, and likewise any consideration of a club whose objective is to match them up with foreigners who want to marry for a fee.

# 2 houses lost in Pasig fire

By Kristine L. Alave

A BLAZE BURNED DOWN TWO houses in Barangay Buting in Pasig City yesterday morning, the city's fire department reported.

Fire Senior Inspector Rodolfo Ramos, Jr. said the blaze was first reported at around 10:30 a.m. The fire was put out about an hour later, the report said. No one was reported hurt or killed in the incident.

Residents said they have yet to establish the cause of the blaze as both Hilarbacua and Lopez claimed that the fire started in their houses.

The official added that the probers would also get the victims' statements and talk to other witnesses.

**OFFENSIVE ART?**

From Zoilo Turkish of Quezon City: "I am extremely bothered by the presence of nudities in stickers, paintings and graffiti found in jeepneys plying the Cogeo-Cubao (Quezon City) and vice versa routes. I photographed this jeepney with plate number MTD 235, in particular, to show you readers what I mean. The painting on this jeepney's body shows what appears to be a woman's pubic hair and a man's penis with a semen dripping on it. Are there any regulations regarding the use of these types of offensive 'art' that offend the sensibilities of motorists, commuters and pedestrians?"

### Are these cops blind!

"RIDAY[only a.m.] 6:45 a.m. at Avenida Rizal in front of the Hall of Justice, a car driver, passenger (women) are parked to double-parked even motorists. Also along the line of traffic. They are also public safety officers, especially to motorists. Traffic aides and policemen are often seen in this area but appear to be unaware, how to this always-occurred. I don't necessarily need their services and it is responsible for the mess, but I feel so helpless as one of the few

### At wit's end

HUMBOLD traffic conditions exist at 11 a.m. on a daily basis at Banawe Avenue corner Aurora Blvd. in Quezon City. I refer to the intersection especially because of a passenger jeepney in the area. This area can accommodate and maximum of only eight buses at once.

**JOSE P. Tuazon, Manila**

### Insensitive to traffic mess

"ABLE the SM multi-storied car park (open passenger jeepneys are parked to double-parked motorists. Also along the line of traffic. They are also public safety officers, especially to motorists. Traffic aides and policemen are often seen in this area but appear to be unaware, how to this always-occurred. I don't necessarily need their services and it is responsible for the mess, but I feel so helpless as one of the few

### Illegal vendors, illegal terminal

COMMUNICAL[ Women Jose Rizal Memorial Mission Hospital from Buendia Avenue to Taft Ave. corner Roxas Boulevard is filled with countless unregulated jeepney terminals. Because women are harboring anything already?

**EDMUNDETA, SR. Jaoyo**
**Bonifacio, Quezon City**

# More skyscrapers to rise in Makati

By DJ Yap and Faith Alayon

EXPECT MORE SKYSCRAPERS AT THE OUTskirts of Makati's central business district.

The Ayala realty arm is set to complete its city's central zoning ordinance to pave the way for the construction of high-rise buildings in the area surrounding the business district. "In effect, we are expanding the Makati central business district," Mayor-elect Jejomar Binay said last week.

According to him, the city government is already in talks with investors for the development of the area around the financial hub.

The upgrading of the Ayala area side will allow owners to expand their business by putting them to build higher buildings, which was capped under the old zoning rules, Binay said.

Among the businesses included in the zoning redistribution are Palmera, Benpkal, Makati Cinema, Silver Bonnie, Robinsons, Sputnik, Bel-Air, San Lorenzo, Magallanes, Guadalupe Nuevo and Guadalupe Viejo.

Binay said the plan was set to continue as it operates to the "growing demand" for more office spaces in Makati.

Specific areas eyed for commercial and residential development include J.P. Rizal Avenue, Pasong Tamo, Magsaysay, Malugay and Nakpil area, Zobel Roxas St., M. Reyes St., Dela Rosa St., Kalayaan Avenue, Amapola Street, Molino and the Bonifacio portion of Edsa.

# Classroom lack still QC school's . . .

From page A12

As example, Ramos explained that some grade 1 students attend classes from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. The next shift is from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. while the last shift is from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

While most of the classrooms are of the standard size (8 x 7 meters), the school has been forced to construct makeshift rooms in the corridors to accommodate.

Willie Lacal, assistant to the principal, said accreditation and some were the main problems of students and teachers without classes were held in "cardboard rooms," so called because they were made out mostly of cardboard.

"Hopefully, we can remove these makeshift rooms once the new building is completed," Lacal said.

"But then again, we may still have to keep them because of the increasing student population every year which we cannot keep up with," he added, quietly narrating the school campus.

Francis said the school's growing population has compromised the students' learning ability and achievement.

"At the end of every school year, public school students are administered national and division achievement tests," Francis explained.

Because of the large number of kids in each grade level, the brightest students are usually pulled down by the greater number of poor achievers—who, according to the principal, are sadly affected by the overcrowded classrooms which at times, create an atmosphere not conducive to learning.

"So, a happier note, despite our corruption, fabulous problems, we do see a rise in the achievement tests," Francis said, looking at the bright side, adding that the school usually ended up third or fourth in the list.

But it has been a struggle, she admitted. "It is really hard to control such a large number of very active students in each classroom."

Ramos said she has implemented a policy wherein teachers in each subject area have to meet at least once a month to discuss new trends and possible improvements in the teaching field.

"I am also requesting Mayor Sonny Belmonte to help us in the 2nd Mallesi and Che Bagong Lipunan buildings, which have fallen into very sorry state of disrepair," she added.

According to her, a task force has been formed to assist students and their parents on the first day of classes.

"It will also help us in our to attend the opening of classes at the Commonwealth Elementary School," Ramos, who transferred from the Tandang Sora Elementary School last August, said.

"Let's see how crowded it's going to be," the principal dreadfully said.

**A SOLOMON** sign teachers and parents prepare classrooms at the Commonwealth Elementary School in Quezon City for today's opening of classes. The school's enrollment went up to 15,000 this year, 500 students more compared to the year before.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
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**BILLBOARD ADVISORY**

With the eminent occurrence this year of 13 strong typhoons and heavy rains as forecasted by PAG-ASA the DPWH is undertaking steps and activities to ensure public safety and prevent and/or minimize the impact of the damages brought about by such calamities. Hence this advisory is being issued to all service providers or owners of sign or signboards (billboards) erected without the necessary permits, installed or constructed on road-right-of-way yards/setbacks, made of substandard materials, and especially those constructed near, over or enclosing power lines, to dismantle voluntarily such structures, otherwise, the Department of Public Works and Highways will do the dismantling in exercise of its mandate pursuant to Administrative Orders 160 and 160-A dated October 4, 2006 and October 10, 2006, respectively, issued by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Service providers are advised to request the assistance of the DPWH to ascertain the stability of their "free-standing" and roof mounted sign or signboard structures and thereafter the issuance of clearance before they operate and continue their advertising activities.

We also enjoin the product manufacturers and advertisers to engage the services of legitimate service providers or billboard structure owners with DPWH clearance to avoid inconvenience and economic loss.

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This advisory serves as notice to all service providers and other stakeholders of the Outdoor Promotion and Advertising Industry.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL M. BONOAN**
Officer-In-Charge, DPWH

# GANITO KALAKI ANG BANTA NG BIRD FLU

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# Keeping the Philippines Bird Flu-Free: It's in our Hands

That's the good news. And it's well worth repeating: The Philippines, as you read this, is bird flu-free. But that's a headline that can change quicker than you can fry an egg if we aren't careful.

Birds are very much a part of our daily lives. From the pigeons we take care of to the chicken at carinderias to the ostentatiously gilt-accented chicken feet and ears. To our kitchens where meals consistently screamers. To fast food chains overflowing with the latest crispy and juicy offerings and fun, rounded pitching quail eggs. To the fertilizer-makers and cockfighting aficionados. We're surrounded by birds and their byproducts, and it's all well and good for now.

But should bird flu make it to our shores, we'll be in for some difficult times.

Which is why numerous organizations have banded together to stop bird flu from entering the country, each in their own way. Some try spreading information. Some try to lobby for additional laws against the smuggling of wild birds. Others look for better enforcement of existing regulations.

But addressing the bird flu scare isn't a top-secret, for-experts-only thing. It needs every one of us to pitch in. And we're not talking about massive contributions of time and money. Far from it.

We're talking about practicing basic Bird Flu habits. And it all begins with clean hands. The thorough and regular washing of hands will do more for arresting the spread of any virus than you may realize. It's also helpful to use at least 70% isopropyl alcohol-based soap and water be unavailable for whatever reason.

Proper cough habits are important too. Cover your nose and mouth with tissue or a handkerchief every time you sneeze, cough or blow your nose. If you don't have those, cough into your sleeve. And while few of us encounter live birds on a retail basis, common sense also demands we keep away from sick or dying birds.

(For more information on specific signs of bird flu, please visit www.iwasbirdflu.com)

Arming ourselves with these three deceptively simple steps is the best defense we have against the avian influenza that is sweeping through most of Asia and the rest of the world.

Of course, there are other things concerned individuals can do. Like reporting cases of chickens, ducks or birds promptly dying in large numbers to your local Veterinary, Agricultural or Health Officer or Barangay Captain, or the bird flu hotline. You can continue enjoying your favorite poultry dishes, just make sure all chickens and eggs are thoroughly cleaned and cooked. Bring your meals to a boil, grill or fry chicken till its juices run clear, not pink. Make sure eggs and halut are fully cooked, not undercooked.

But it all begins with keeping our hands clean and keeping them to ourselves.

unicef

## IWAS BIRD FLU

### Signs of Bird Flu in Birds

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purpled discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing, sneezing
- Incoordination
- Diarrhea

### Tips on how to protect yourself from Bird Flu

- **Practice proper hygiene.**
- **Protect the children.**
- **Protect yourself and your workers.**
- **Protect your neighbors.**

**Call the Bird Flu Hotline:**
**925-9999**

# Thousands rally for US immigration bill changes

WASHINGTON—THOUSANDS OF immigrants and their supporters gathered on the west lawn of the Capitol on Thursday to urge the Senate to adopt legislation that would make it easier for illegal immigrants to become legal residents of the United States.

Bearing the midday heat, the demonstrators, who were largely from the Washington area, streamed into the lawn above the reflecting pool, waving American flags and carrying red, white, and blue placards.

The rally was smaller than those held here and across the United States **last year like its organizers, the** Service Employees International Union, had expected. But it was the first step in a campaign to pressure senators to change key aspects of the immigration bill they are considering.

Congress has been on a weeklong recess and will be in session again on Monday. Before the break, the Senate began discussion of an immigration bill that, among other things, would allow a 13,000 fine on illegal immigrants who seek legal status, require guest workers to return home for one year for every two years worked in the United States, and give higher priority for legal status to well-educated immigrants, rather than to those who have family here.

Conservatives have dismissed the **bill as amnesty for illegal immigrants.** But immigrants' supporters and proponents like the fine and the return clause were unsatisfied with its application.

"I don't expect to get a perfect bill, but the current legislation has evolved future we don't need to be fixed," said Janice Contreras, president of the immigration coalition's board. "If Congress doesn't take action this year, they are misreading the public. The immigrant community is paying close attention and knows who is on our side and who isn't."

Most of the speakers addressed the crowd in Spanish and regardless-to-non-aged demonstrators to sign postcards to members of Congress and to call their senators. Some of those interviewed said they were naturalized citizens or legal residents who were closely following the debate and considered much of the pending bill unnecessarily punitive.

Others worried about the cost of the bill that would award legal status to highly skilled immigrants more easily than to those with family here, saying it would split up families.

Alvaro Urena, 36, of Washington, a citizen who came here from Chile, said, "If you want to gain residency you get a certain number of points based on your skills, but in our community we do work Americans don't want to do." AFP

GERMAN police officers and demonstrators clash after a protester was thrown from the back of a truck during a march against the upcoming G8 Summit in Rostock, Germany, June 2.

ROSTOCK, GERMANY—MORE than 140 police were injured in violent clashes with Molotov cocktail-throwing protesters here on Saturday at a demonstration ahead of next week's G8 summit.

Riots broke out as tens of thousands of people marched through this northeastern German port, 25 km from the Baltic resort of Heiligendamm, where the leaders of the world's richest nations will begin a three-day meeting on Thursday.

Several hundred demonstrators **from a group of about 2,000 wearing** black masks and hoods hurled Molotov cocktails, stones and bottles at police and several cars were set on fire or overturned.

Police and water cannons in an attempt to disperse the troublemakers, who were believed to be from a leftist group.

Some 25 police had serious injuries, a spokesperson said, while 78 protesters had been arrested. A total of 146 officers were hurt, according to the spokesperson.

The violence only involved a small percentage of the 30,000 people that took part in the march, according to police figures. The organizers of the march—a collection of antiglobalization and antipoverty groups—claimed 80,000 people had taken part. Police put the figure at 50,000.

Werner Rätz of the ATTAC antiglobalization organization said clashes began when the group of rioters protesters threw rocks at a police vehicle with an officer inside.

Police then sent in two armored squadrons to rescue the officer, which led to clashes, he said.

"There is no justification for such violence against people and are usually distance ourselves from it," Rätz said.

The clashes bore out fears expressed by German authorities that a left-wing militants would cause unrest during protests against the summit.

Another organizer of peaceful protesters lamented that it could be difficult to restore calm.

"Unfortunately, it is more difficult to calm the situation than it is to inflame it," Manfred Stenner said.

Demonstrations at past G8 summits have been marred by violence, most notoriously in the Italian city of Genoa in 2001 when a demonstrator was shot dead by police during riots.

The Rostock march was the biggest event of a week of demonstrations against the meeting of the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States.

The march had begun in a peaceful atmosphere.

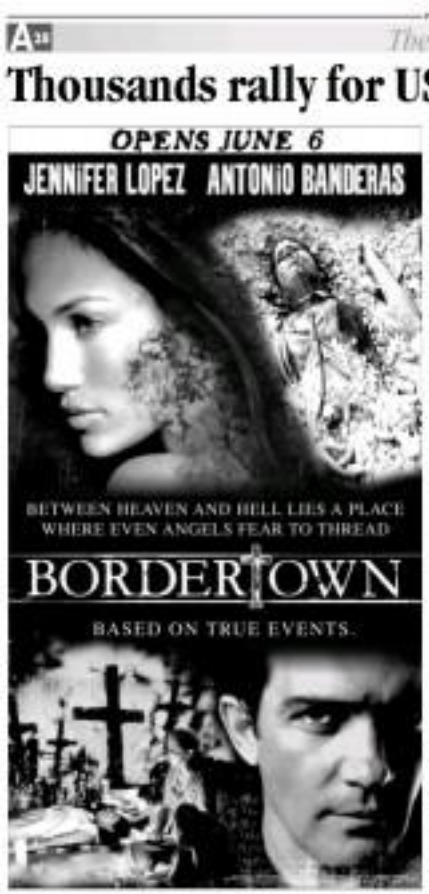
Protesters carried banners reading "G8 terrorists, your climate kills" and "Make Capitalism History."

Others called for the world's most industrialized nations to fulfill their pledges to increase aid to Africa.

Dirk Moses, a 27-year-old German taking part in the march, said he was hoping the summit would achieve a major breakthrough in capping greenhouse gases.

"I am here to protest for the climate because I have a 2-year-old daughter and I'm wondering what sort of world we are creating for her," he said.

More protests are planned in the coming days, with militant Brandenburg-style black roads around Rostock airport from Wednesday to prevent the leaders and their delegations from reaching the summit venue. AFP

## Civilian deaths in Iraq jump to 2,000 in May

BAGHDAD—THE NUMBER OF CIVILIANS killed in Iraq jumped to nearly 2,000 in May, the highest monthly toll since the start of a US-backed security crackdown in February, according to figures released on Saturday.

Militants blew up a strategic bridge that **links Baghdad** to the northern cities of Erbil and Arbil, and a mortar barrage on the Shiite enclave of Sadr City in eastern Baghdad, killed 10 people and wounded 30, police said.

In Arbil, the capital of Iraq's autonomous **Kurdistan region, Iraqi Prime Minister** Nuri al-Maliki and Massud Barzani, president of Kurdistan, urged Turkey not to send troops into the region to crush Kurdish separatist rebels believed to be hiding there.

An Interior Ministry official, who did not want to be named because he was not authorized to release the figures, said 1,944 civilians were killed in May, a 29-percent hike over April. At least 1,294 soldiers and police were killed in the same period.

The death toll was based on statistics compiled by Iraq's ministries of interior, defense and health on the number of people killed and wounded in attacks in Iraq.

Also there are no official figures, there has been a sharp rise in the number of sectarian murders in Baghdad. Mortar attacks in the capital are becoming deadlier and car bombs remain common.

The United Nations has rebuked Iraq's government for refusing to disclose the political and security civilian casualty figures in order to calls a "rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis." Reuters

**'RAPUNZEL' TRICIA**
Big hair winner Tricia Harrison of Grafton, Mass., shows off her hair during the Imperial Perfect Hair Competition in Manchester, N.H., June 3. More than 40 contestants competed for the biggest hair and the first place prize of $1,000 as they raise money for breast cancer.

# Fighting worsens as Lebanese Army surrounds militants

TRIPOLI, LEBANON—JEAMY SHOUMAN and gunfire continued for the second day at the Nahr al Bared refugee camp, as the Lebanese Army intensified its offensive against the Fatah al Islam militants.

Three soldiers were killed and 15 were wounded in the fighting by Saturday afternoon, the Army reported, raising the number of the force's deaths from the two-day offensive to six.

Dozens of militants from Fatah al Islam, a Qaeda-inspired group, have also been killed or wounded, the Army said, but that figure could not be independently verified, and it was not immediately clear how many of those victims were fighters and how many were among the thousands of civilians trapped in the camp.

Reports have estimated that about a third of what was once 40,000 Palestinian refugees may still be in the camp.

By midday, the Army had secured control of all the positions dominated by the militants outside the camp and had destroyed many sniping positions in the camp, stopping short of actually entering into the difficult-to-defend area of the camp, the military said.

"The Army is now fighting on the enemy lines and the militants are fighting on the interior lines," said Elias Hanna, a former general in the Army. "They are trying to squeeze them inside their circle."

No Army helicopter attacked suspected militant hideouts with missile and machine-gun fire on the western edge of the camp, apparently in an attempt to block escape by sea, The Associated Press reported.

"This is the beginning of the end," said Hasan Hajj, a member of Lebanon's civil defense corps who has helped evacuate bodies and the injured from the campsites the last two weeks. "The Army took over buildings inside the camps, and now it's just a matter of time."

The offensive began on Friday as the Lebanese Army tightened its noose around the camp, moving several hundred yards closer to the camp, sealing new ground in a clearing light that left 30 dead and dozens wounded.

The fighting broke a tense 10-day cease-fire, and it raised fears that the Army was planning to move directly into the camp.

The militants again said they would fight to the last man, if necessary.

"Morale is high," said Abu Fourkan, deputy leader of Fatah al Islam, speaking to The Associated Press by telephone. "Let them come. We are ready." AYI

**HE'S BACK**
Cuba's President Fidel Castro (right) and Vietnamese Communist Party chief Nong Duc Manh bag during a meeting in Hanoi June 2. Castro appeared more vigorous in the first images of the Cuban leader to be...

**Confusion as state unwraps Castro's ailments, backing up reports that he has just his health problems behind him.** REUTERS

# Father of Anna Nicole's baby sues his ex-attorney

LOS ANGELES—LARRY BIRKHEAD, THE father of Anna Nicole Smith's baby, sued his former attorney, claiming she defrauded him of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Birkhead's lawsuit, filed Friday in Superior Court, claims that Debra Opri offered to represent him for free during a paternity dispute involving the baby, but then suddenly would benefit her current Birkhead's lawsuit was filed just days after Opri filed her own suit, claiming that Birkhead did not pay his bills for her legal services.

Birkhead's lawsuit accuses Opri of depositing at least $400,000 from $1,000,000 owed to him for an unrelated project into an attorney trust account against his wishes. After Opri refused to turn over the money, Birkhead fired her, the lawsuit said.

"Opri placed her own current desires and needs above the best interests of her former and desires of her ex-client," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit also said Opri solicited donations to a legal fund and revealed confidential information during media interviews—all without Birkhead's consent. Opri is also accused of charging Birkhead for her travel expenses, dinners with friends and entertainment expenses.

In a brief statement released Friday, Opri responded by saying that her former client is avoiding the issue of his unpaid legal fees.

"It has now admitted, however, that he can pay his legal bills having invested over 1 million dollars in a media deal," she wrote. "This does not include the untold millions he has received for selling photos of his daughter."

Opri said her work on Birkhead's behalf resulted hundreds of hours of work and required her to travel to multiple states and virtually the country. Her lawsuit did not specify a dollar amount.

Birkhead said Smith in October seeking a paternity test of her daughter to determine who was the baby's father. AP


# No one is SPARED in the Fight Against Corruption!

The New Rules of Procedure of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission
Issued March 14, 2007

**SCOPE OF AUTHORITY**

**Section 1. Jurisdiction** – The Commission shall, upon complaint or on its own initiative, investigate or otherwise receive, gather and consolidate information and evidence, against:

(a) Presidential Appointees in the Executive Department including the entire Cabinet, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary or an equivalent rank and higher, otherwise classified as Salary Grade 30 and higher, under Republic Act 6758 known as the Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989, including Officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) above, elected to a different or subordinated from the Presidency;

(b) Presidential Appointees who are members of the governing board of any instrumentality, regulatory agency or Chartered Institution, and Directors or Officers who are appointed or nominated by the President or government owned or controlled corporations or subsidiaries, where the government has a controlling interest, or who otherwise represent the interest of the government; and

(c) Other public officials and private persons who are in conspiracy, collusion or involvement with any said Presidential Appointee,

For acts and omissions constituting violations of:

(a) Republic Act 3019, as amended, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act;

(b) Republic Act 1379, on the criminal acquisition of property by a public officer or employee;

(c) Republic Act 6713, otherwise known as "The Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees";

(d) Title Seven Book Two of the Revised Penal Code;

(e) Executive Order 292, Series of 1987, otherwise known as The Administrative Code of 1987, whenever such acts contravene constituting violations of any of the foregoing laws and issuances and directives promulgated thereof;

(f) Rules and Regulations duly promulgated by competent authority to implement any of the foregoing laws and issuances; and –

(g) Other rules and issuances, violations of which are referred by the President to the Commission.

**Section 2. Separation from Service** – The resignation, retirement or separation from employment of any public officer under investigation shall not divest the Commission of authority to pursue the investigation to its logical conclusion and to submit to the President its findings and recommendations.

**ASSISTANCE EVALUATION AND QUEST FOR EVIDENCE**

**Section 1. Complaints** – The Commission shall take cognizance of and act on a complaint or information, developed or obtained in any form or from any source, whenever it appears on its face that the allegations therein are verifiable and worthwhile acts and circumstances constituting a violation within its authority to investigate.

The fact-gathering, investigative, technical or intelligence-type of media reports, telephone calls, personal communications, electronically sent or digitally contained messages and other similar means of communication, whether anonymous, or signed complaints, or those referred to the President or any disciplinary authority, shall be evaluated in writing by anybody from within or without the Commission to be deemed filed as a complaint.

A duly sworn complaint or sworn statement over the signature of the aggrieved party shall immediately be docketed and assigned a case number for appropriate action by the Commission. Otherwise, the Commission shall, upon the immediate docketed thereof or later, part within six days be reminded for the just disposition of the same.

The Commission may, upon the consideration of sec. 4c alleged in the complaint shall determine the nature of the offense involved and the jurisdiction of the Commission.

It shall be done in open and evaluation of the allegations of the complaint it appears that the Commission has an jurisdiction over the offense complained of, the same shall be referred to the competent government office or agency for disciplining authority for appropriate action.

The complainant, if known to the Commission, shall be informed of the action taken.

**Section 2. Determination of Facts** – In its fact finding and quest for evidence, the Commission shall use every and all reasonable means to speedily and objectively ascertain facts without regard to technicalities of law or procedure but to all intensive unsparing the rights of persons under disarming any person.

For the purpose, the Commission may administer oaths, issue summons and subpoena government personnel and records. It may likewise enlist the aid and support of any law enforcement agency under the call upon any government agency for assistance, whether the cooperation demanded and requires participation in the investigation or to participate in the investigation itself.

**Section 3. Lifestyle and Asset Consistency Checks** – Even when no complaints exists, the Commission may, on its own initiative, investigate the positions of Section 1 (a) or (b) Republic Act 6713 and Sections 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 330, 334, 335, 336, 338, 340, 341, 342, 343 of Title Seven Book Two of the Revised Penal Code, Lifestyle and Asset Consistency Checks shall form part of all investigations and shall, when warranted by the facts, be the subject of a separate case docketed.

**Section 4. Prima Facie Evidence** – When on the basis of the complaint and/or evidence obtained in the investigation, there appears probable cause to negotiate suitable that the allegations thereof may be true, the Director of Investigation Office, as the complainant, shall sign and file the appropriate Formal Charge.

The private complainant, if any shall then be considered as a mere supporting witness.

**ASSUMING OR UNDERTAKING OF FORMAL CHARGE**

**Section 1. Formal Charge** – The Formal Charge shall contain the aforesaid and something on clear and concise statement of the ultimate facts constituting:

The respondent shall be served copies of the Formal Charge, the affidavits and other documentary evidence accompanying the same.

**Section 2. Preventive Suspension** – The Commission may, upon application of the Investigation Office, recommend to the President the issuance of an Order of Preventive Suspension –

(a) When the offense charged is punishable by removal from the service; or

(b) When respondent is continued stay in office would prejudice and the speedy disposition of the case.

The preventive suspension shall continue until the investigation is terminated by the Commission but in no case shall exceed ninety (90) days, except when the delay is due to the fault, negligence or petition of the respondent, in which case, the period of such delay shall not be counted in computing the period of suspension.

**Section 3. Answer** – The respondent shall submit his answer within ten (10) working days from receipt of the Formal Charge and his documentary evidence which shall be under oath and accompanied by supporting affidavits and documentary evidence, copy furnished the aforementioned Party.

No motion to dismiss and/or for bill of particulars shall be entertained.

Failure by the respondent to file answer in the time within which he may be allowed, and/or for supporting evidence may be filed and granted only once and only for sufficient cause.

**Section 4. Failure to Answer** – Failure to file an answer within the allowed period shall be deemed a waiver of respondent's right to be heard and to present evidence on his behalf.

The Commission shall then proceed to consider the investigation as terminated or submitted for resolution based on available evidence.

**Section 5. Clarificatory Questions** – Upon the filing of an answer, the case shall be considered submitted for resolution unless the Commission, in its sound discretion, decides to propound clarificatory questions in which case hearings may be scheduled and summons and subpoenas issued for this purpose.

The proceedings and appearances before the Commission shall be non-adversarial and no cross-examination by the parties shall be allowed. The Commission, however, may, in clearing clarification, adopt such questions as may be submitted to it in writing by the parties.

Reasoning of questions may be allowed only when and only to sufficient cause.

**Section 6. Position Papers** – The Commission may require the parties, or the parties may ask to be allowed, to submit Position Papers to argue their cases.

**Section 7. Legal Assistance** – In the proceedings before the Commission, the respondent may be assisted by counsel but with in not a government lawyer.

**RESOLUTION**

**Section 1. Decision** – The Commission shall endeavor to complete an investigation within ninety (90) days from filing of the complaint. The findings of the Commission shall be rendered on the basis of such evidence as may be presented during the formal hearings and legal conclusions, and its recommendations on the appropriate administrative and criminal penalties as imposed if it be one finding that it is the respondent.

It shall likewise include, whenever relevant, recommendations on the adoption of appropriate curative and/or for undertaking of other actions or measures relative or connected to the impact of the case on the anti-graft and corruption program, plans and strategies of the government.

The records shall be transmitted together with the Resolution to the Office of the President and the investigation shall be deemed terminated.

**Section 2. Initiations** – A Commissioner may, on motion or on his own volition, recuse himself from participating in the resolution of an investigation on ethical grounds. Provided, the refusal by reason of motivations the Commission is presented from acting as a collegial body it shall transmit the records of the case to the President with the written and individual explanations of the Commissioners.

**Section 3. Notice** – The respondent and complaining witness shall be informed only that the investigation has been terminated, and the records forwarded to the Office of the President.

No clarification, motion or petition for reconsideration of the decision of the Commission unless the case is first remanded to it by the President for further proceedings.

**Section 4. Criminal Prosecution** – The Commission shall, if warranted by finding of a prima facie case, file the appropriate criminal complaint against the respondent before the Office of the Ombudsman or the Department of Justice.

The Commission may assist in the prosecution of the case, and shall monitor the same, in all its stages until final judgment is rendered thereto by the courts.

**Section 5. Enforcement of Affirmative and Judgments** – The Commission shall ensure that the decisions of the President on its findings and recommendations and that of the courts and other disciplining authorities on conviction of the respondent at the instance of the Commission, are enforced and implemented properly and without delay.

**ABSENCE/NOT OF CASES**

**Section 1. Case Officers** – The Chairperson shall, upon filing of the Formal Charge, assign the investigation to one of the Commissioners. The designated Commissioner shall serve as the Officer in Charge, and as such shall preside in the reception of evidence in clarificatory hearings to assign a Hearing Officer on the summons, summon cases and, in relation to the Commission and shall have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the conduct of hearings and subpoenas. Provided, that in investigations involving Presidential Appointees with Salary Grade of 30 and above the Commission shall sit en banc during such clarificatory hearings. Provided, finally that in all investigations the final Resolution of the case disposing of the same shall be decided and signed by the Commission in accordance with Rule 7 hereof.

**NON-COMPLIANCE WITH SUMMONS AND SUBPOENAS**

**Section 1. Effect** – Any unreasonable delay in unjustified failure or refusal of a Presidential Appointee to comply with the summons or subpoena or any lawful order of the Commission issued in the Commission shall constitute ground for disciplinary action to be recommended to the President by the Commission.

The Commission may, for this purpose, also file appropriate charges or complaints against the erring public official or employee before other disciplining authorities or competent courts.

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURES**

**Section 1. Prohibition** – The Commission and its personnel shall not disclose or make available to anyone information in connection with any pending investigation when such disclosure would interfere with the investigation or the right to a fair trial of the respondent or any person connected with the investigation or the implementation of the order of the Commission.

Only the Chairperson may disclose any information to the public. Provided that any such disclosure shall be balanced, fair and accurate.

Any party who, by any form of public disclosure, causes injury to the rights of others or generally affects the fair conduct of the investigation shall be made liable by the Commission under existing laws.

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# The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gueco

## US, China ease up on dispute over military buildup

GATES

SINGAPORE—THE UNITED States and China turned down the heat Saturday on a simmering dispute over Beijing's military buildup, with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates expressing optimism about future relations.

Gates called for a more detailed military dialogue with China to avoid future misunderstandings, while a top Chinese general said Beijing was prepared to "embrace" talks with Washington.

"I think it is an important start," said Gates. "There has clearly been greater transparency on the part of the Chinese." The establishment of a direct telephone link between the US and Chinese defense ministries would help avoid miscalculations and was "another step forward in the development of the relationship," he said.

The comments from the two officials, both of whom were attending an Asian security conference in Singapore, came in the wake of a Pentagon report that questioned the motivation behind Beijing's drive to modernize its military.

Gates downplayed part US Defense Department's military might, alluding only in passing to the Pentagon report by removing March-August's concerns over "the opaqueness of Beijing's military spending and modernization programs."

"But as Gen. Pete Pace, our chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, pointed out, there is a major difference between 'capacity' and 'intent.' And I believe there is reason to be optimistic about the US-China relationship."

"So we gain experience in dealing with each other, relationships can be forged that will build trust over time," Gates said.

He said ties contrasted with that taken by his predecessor Donald Rumsfeld, who used the same forum two years ago to sharply question China's intentions in building up its military.

Later in a question-and-answer session, Gates said dialogue could be a useful tool in helping countries with differing ideologies to understand each other better, referring to Washington's Cold War encounters with Moscow.

"While we have no conflict at this point, this kind of transparency, this kind of discussion is the kind of thing that promotes mutual relations and helps work side misfortunes where the other is headed and what its intentions are," Gates said.

"That kind of dialogue, whether or not it involves specific proposals for arms control or anything else, I think is immensely valuable, and I think is one of the great assets of developing the military-to-military dialogue between the United States and the People's Republic." AFP

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Ateneo trips rival La Salle in V-League/A32

# SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy B. Melendrez Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dilloo

- Cavs reach NBA finals/A34

ROYAL FUMBLE Barangay Ginebra Kings playmaker Egay Schuster (front) and ramos Billy Mamaril (back) battle Air21 Express enforcer Homer Se in a loose ball scramble during their game last night. The Kings defeated the Express, 120-116, for their 12th win in 14 outings. Story on A34

# Board to put new PBA rule under scrutiny

By Manuel R. Carrillo

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD CONVENES IN A SPECIAL meeting on Thursday to discuss the longbodies (in the metrobox)" Rolling List (RTL) directive to the controversial Board Additional Station Villanueva made last week.

Saying that "we've been through bigger problems than this," chairman Betty Arcega of Talk 'N Text yesterday expressed confidence that all sessions will die down and that matters will be re- adverse to the meeting.

"The gentlemen of the board will be able to sit down and discuss things," Arcega told a select


WHAT LEADS TO BALDNESS?

RENDE AGUSTIN, Business Executive
"My head seemed to be continually itchy. Then I realized I was losing hair. Since baldness runs on both sides of the family, I got very worried if it was happening to me. I heard about Svenson and called for a consultation. It cost me nothing to find out about my hair problem and what could be done about it. After a series of treatments my worries ended. Six more scalp infusions, no more hairloss, just healthier, lovelier-looking hair."

JOEL LACSON, Businessman
"My wife was concerned when she noticed hairs left on my pillow every morning. I also knew there was something wrong – my itchy, irritated scalp was telling me. I wanted to get a specialist's opinion and went to Svenson. I was recommended a program of treatments for my particular scalp and hairloss problems. I wasn't disappointed. Treatments not only stopped my hair getting worse, they reversed it. 'Is this the real me?' I asked myself."

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VARGAS

# Board to put new PBA rule under scrutiny

From page A11

group of six days before third game against San Miguel Beer at the Araneta Coliseum. "I granted the request for a (special) board meeting to clarify certain issues.

"But the issue here is the RTL, not the trade which I think is just a consequence," he added.

Reality Investments of Sta. Lucia and Joaquin Trillo of Alaska voiced out their displeasure on Friday regarding the Villanueva-Ildefonso swap, which they thought violated the RTL, the very first time it was supposed to be implemented.

Trillo, whose boss, Wilfred Steven Uytongsu, will arrive on Wednesday from a business trip in the United States, even said that he will raise the matter for the board to declare the trade null and void and reverse the approval of commissioner Nedialda.

"We will follow the process allowed by the (PBA) by-laws," Vargas answered. "We will know (from the by-laws) what can and cannot be done."

The controversy started when Villanueva was stricken off Red Bull's RTL for being "insubordinate" and "unhappy" with the squad, which was called in the RP Team consultees being dealt to San Miguel for Ildefonso.

Compounding matters was when Ashland found for two more Purefoods, a sister team of San Miguel, each Red Bull just getting second-string big men Jhun Dela Cruz and second round draft rights either this year or the next.

Both Emeramado and Trillo, who were interviewed separately on Friday, are questioning the legality of the trade because it is semi-lateral. But Red Bull gave up too much to acquire so little and also owns for the Purefoods-Air21 tussle.

Emeramado and Trillo said that Pittman and Cora Gobuyan also spoke to other clubs but was not approved.

The RTL was launched to curb unrestricted trading among teams and banned the clamor of outer teams trading among themselves. Under the rule, each team will put a player in its RTL and that player can only be traded for a player belonging to that squad's RTL.

Red Bull "defected" the Ateneo-La Salle game in favor of Villanueva from its RTL supposedly for disciplinary action, a matter Nedialda did not buy.

"It is the commissioner's job to investigate procedures and committees of each subject," Emeramado had said.

# Ateneo trips rival La Salle in V-League

By Rovinia S. Asenio

GAMES TOMORROW
(The Arena, San Juan)
1 p.m. — ADMU vs. UE
Women
3 p.m. — UP vs. FEU
Men
5 p.m. — ADMU vs. DLSU
Women

ATENEO STORMED TO a three-of-second place with a 22-25, 25-23, 25-21, 25-15 win yesterday over arch rival and tournament defending champion La Salle in the Shakey's Virginia women's volleyball tournament at The Arena in San Juan.

In other matches, the winds of bad luck of both Adamson and Letran combined to deny downed regents opponents and hotgod into the win column.

Ateneo's third straight win, which gave it a 3-1 card along with de Ian Sebastian, was again made possible by the heads-up performance of guest player Michelle Laborte and Thai playing assistant coach Ramthana Jindawat.

Another guest Ateneo a game-high 20 points while Laborte contributed 15. The duo finished as combined scorer-leaders.

La Salle, which took the opening set but could not find a chance to tie the match in the fourth set, dropped its encounter at 2-3.

In the opening match, the Lady Tamaraws yielded off on upper notch a 30-28, 25-27, 25-20, 25-22 win over last-year's tournament champion University of Santo Tomas (1-3) protege.

Letran also posted a 19-25, 25-21, 30-28, 25-15 win over the Far Eastern University Lady Tamaraws in the third game.

Adamson now sports a 1-3 card while UST dropped to a third-best 2-2. Letran and FEU have another 1-3 chance.

Guest player Jeanette Bacos started to all but one of four sets for Adamson, making 25 points on 10 spikes, while Rissa Isaac Lapcadio took care of business, blocking 29 UST attempts.

Bacos' output was more than the combined production of normally prolific UST players Rose Doval and Mary Jean Balse, who came up with 15 and 11 points, respectively.

Letran, meanwhile, got a giant game from six-foot starter Jhaiza Mae Dela who registered with 17 points while hitting 23 PEU hits.

LETRAN'S Dianna Mae Dela Isman a one-foot pass jane Kathleen Dizon (5) and Bernadeth Morada of FEU in yesterday's game. ANJANETTE RAVELO, INQUIRER.NET

# Filoil hoops q'finals get going today

IT'S DOWN TO EIGHT TEAMS IN THE Filoil Flying V Preseason Invitational Cup as the quarterfinal round starts today at The Arena in San Juan featuring the top four squads of the two groups.

The National University Lemon made links off the four game schedule in 11 a.m., followed by the San Beda Jose Rizal University affair 1 p.m.

Group B topmakers La Salle, which ended the eliminations with a 5-2 card, squares off with the 4-Shipua at 3 p.m. while Group A top seed Letran variety of the East battles the Cagayan at 5 p.m.

NU ended the Group B eliminations with a second-best 4-3 card while Letran rose at No. 3 at 3-4, emerging with a superior quotient than Shipua which also ended at 3-4 mark.

JRU emerged as second placer at 5-2 in Group A following a loss to also-ran University of Santo Tomas, 94-92, at the close of eliminations on Friday while San Beda maintained its hold of third spot with an 83-69 win of Philippine Christian University at 4-2 overall mark.

La Salle finished its elimination campaign with a 77-64 win to Olivet remained a hold of top spot at 5-2 as NU likewise lost its final assignment to drop to 4-3.

Shipua lost San Beda to thank for its quarterfinal seat as the Red Lions' win over the PCU Dasmariñas assured its entry into today's matches. Had PCU won, Shipua would have been bumped off due to its inferior quotient.

UE will be entering the tournament of its 5-0 mark into the quarterfinals against fellow UAAP squad FEU.

Today's winners will advance to the June 11 semifinals while the winner take-all champ-ending game is set on June 13. Rovinia S. Asenio

## New revelations on why Pacquiao lost at the polls

BARE EYE

*Recah Trinidad*

IN FAIRNESS TO JIMMY PACQUIAO, there were actually a few out there who had honestly wanted him to win in the last elections.

Count among them those who raked it in while the most popular thing 50 years ago were the consistently nonexistent fans of this futile political battle.

However, there was the usual smack and shrug of the shoulder among countless boxing fans when the result of the vote in South Cotabato and Manila rolled out.

The popular reaction to Pacquiao's loss in the congressional race to unseat Darlene Antonino-Custodio was an honest "I told you so."

* * *

It was easy to conclude that there was general relief over the Pacquiao setback in his battle for a seat in Congress.

Fans, feeling rewarded, were declaring that, henceforth, Pacquiao could devote his time to boxing.

At least, Pacquiao would no longer demand a recount, after he mustard previous losses on the line while contesting the election results.

But the poor loser was a sorry sight, more pitiful than a knockout victim who did not know what had hit him.

* * *

Unfortunately, Pacquiao suffered a second and more crushing humiliation.

When they conducted a poll to determine the eight greatest Filipino boxers of all time, Pacquiao classified a poor ninth in the poll.

Gabriel Flash, who reigned as world 130 lb. king for seven years, topped the selection.

Ironically, the next question asked was: Whether Pacquiao topped that popularity poll had he not decided to retire the do-or-no-kill of Philippine politics?

That would no longer be easy to determine.

* * *

Pacquiao, by the way, will be in New York this week to receive his award as best fighter of the world from the Ring Writers of America.

Meanwhile, our illiterate in Pacquiao's home base of General Santos City people have stopped asking why the chevalier and of the room top-kill of the world suffered a knockout in his last fight.

They wanted to behind the defeat was hardly a secret.

In fact, there were varied considerations, each sounding credible and valid, on why Pacquiao suffered that humiliating defeat in the last election.

Rookie Benito Ramones Reyes, who gave his address at 10 Magnesium Avenue, Gen. Santos City, threw most of the blame on Pacquiao's general campaign manager wherein he described as an irresponsible, greedy, incompetent hanger-on who spoiled the marriage of Pacquiao's sincerity and innocence.

* * *

We regret the handwritten letter is its original form:

Dear Sir,

Binabasa ko yung solusyon nya "Bare Eye" Julio na kung si Manny Pacquiao ang talagang manager nya. Hindi kaya nya si Darlene at si GMA ang mag-kasabwat kay Manny. Maybe kung sa panig ni Pacquiao lang, ang mahalaga dahilan ng pagkatalo ni Manny ay ang kanyang General Campaign Manager (GCM), na incompetent, tamad, kampu-kampo sa mga sugal, sabungero, at marami pang iba. Gusto ko sya.

1) Bilyonan kung GCM na hindi accountant ay wala. Sabi pa nung mga taong nagtrabaho sa Manny?

2) Many election days 10 a.m. kung pa si GCM kaya marami sa poll watchers ang umuwi dahil walang ID at ang iba tamad sa kalalen.

3) Ayaw ng appointment sa media kaysa si Manny choice si GCM at wala naman ding ginawa para dapatan si Pacquiao, dumi lang ginawa nila noong gabi. Millions of votes daw ang nagawa ni Kimby at mahal ang commission ng GCM.

4) Lahat ng dahon sa mundo ay dahon kay GCM. Nakapagng approved siya, kaya sa kanya ang ayaw na mga ayaw.

5) P175 million daw ang ginastos ni Manny. Bisaya kasi. Sapatos lang nagkakahalaga?

6) Si Manny ayaw ng mga suggestion kay GCM dahil sa malapit na nung mahipan sa kanya. Ito nga malaking sayang ng kanyang kampanya. The GCM doesn't know how to organize and, worse, his main agenda was not how to make Manny win but how to make money out of it.

Sir, if you want to know more about the GCM, please come over to Gentan and ask about him from lawyers, clergymen, businessmen, etc.

Sayo na ang nag-aabot kay Manny na kung nag-aabot. After last race, ang sinabi ni GCM, si City Fiscal Jamero, ang nag-aabot kay MP sa mga-umuwi at nakinabang sa mga pumuta kan malaki sa angkaman si Jaime.

Close to legal reasons, we had to unfinished the issue of Pacquiao's general campaign manager.—RCT

# Tuason-Bedi tops Sherwood Invt'l with 64

THE PAIR OF JERRY TUASON AND HERMI Bedi combined for a net eight under par 64 to emerge as solo first overall in the first individual tournament of the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Tanza Martinez, Cavite.

Bedi, JVP for marketing of Group John Hay and Tuason, marketing manager of Monsanto Agro Corp., finished tied with four other teams with their same score but the draw-it-on their lower handicap.

Watchers Nakanishi and partner Benito Bautista also the duo's first overall gross score of 68 at the par 71 layout as they shared the spotlight with Tuason and Bedi to the champions' podium.

The tournament, which was participated in by club-rival industry titles Sobrepeña and sports and games committee head Jimmy Barcenas, was staged as a way of thanking the members, friends and guests for helping Sherwood Hills capture the distinction of being Sta. Elli best golf course outside the City of Golf Tagaytay International.

Nakanishi-Garcia and Jason Lim, who also fired a 64 took the fourth spot. They were followed by Tony Villareal and Jason Ilao and second runners-up Marlon Tyquiengco and Jess Tenorio.

In Division B, three teams also shot 64 but the tiebreaker favored Rudy Bautista and partner Jun Ong to top in the end. Manny Santander and Ian Arellano shelled in at second position. Third placers were Rachel Santos and Dennis Reyes.

Mary Ong (69) and Joni Sevi (70) donned the women division gross sponsors division.

# Tagle banners six Mercedes Trophy Asian final qualifiers

MARC LOUIS TAGLE FLAUNTED STEADY putting and course management to clinch the championship in Class A in the prestigious national finals of the annual Mercedes Trophy Philippines 2007 held at the beautiful Sta. Elena Golf Club last week.

Tagle, a successful businessman and an avid performance car collector, birdied the difficult par-five 14th hole and made eight pars against eight bogeys and a boo double bogey to finish with a net four under par 68 and prevail over an elite field assembled by event organizer CEO Motors Inc.

With his victory Tagle qualifies for the Mercedes Trophy Asian Final set from Aug. 31 to 17 in Queensland, Australia.

"It feels great and amazing. I only got one birdie but I felt good about my round," said Tagle, who was awarded a handsome crystal trophy and a champion Mercedes Trophy golf bag by CARS Motors' chair Greg Yu and president Felix Ang.

Joining Tagle in the Asian Final, which is slated at the Hope Island and Glades courses, are the champions and runners-up of Classes A, B and C. Romeo Gonzales, semi-amateur Ralph Garcia was the second placer in Class A, three strokes behind Tagle.

Businessman Luis Bautista of Bautista and Dy, a Cebu country manager Vera Berry (Class B) and Realtor Walter Villanueva together with PLDT SVP Ernesto Alberto (Class C) will also fly on business class to Australia via Cathay Pacific.

FIGHTING GEST: Top American caliber Larry Whitehead (left) and reigning Rival Dire, Ka Tesano-chan duel their fighting birds during yesterday's National Cockers Association (NCA) World Championship Derby press conference at the Bitas Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City. Looking on is fellow participant William Go. Whitehead hauls a consolidated US-contingent to the derby.

# *Welcoat juniors top Batang PBA*

KETLEY VILLALVA AND RICO PAUL AGUR SCORED 19 points apiece as Batang Welcoat Global Gold of Batang Tala VS Test Gasteon City 58-53, yesterday to win the Division II championship at the Barangay Batang PBA basketball League at the Antonio Escuela.

Tomas Torres assembled 11 of his 17 points in the third quarter as the defending champion Batang Dragons outscored the Batang Pinoys Pride, 27-14, to a 58-49 win over Batang Welcoat.

Four other backcourt reflections scoring 10 or more each as the Batang Welcoat Global team of coach Ronnie Magsanoc defeated Batang Tala VS Test Gasteon City 1 for a 2-0-1 showcase over the Batang Air 21 defender and attack Dire Division 1 Effective Kids 19-10 game slot.

NBC CAGING

# In-form Ozamiz spills Iligan five

OZAMIZ CITY— LAST YEAR'S GRAND SLAM titlist Ozamiz is finally back in championship form.

After struggling in the early part of the 2007 Spring Cooking ILAMC Mindanao Cup basketball tournament, the Cebu Shine cagers benched Perville Digal to start the game with a new lineup. OLSH victory Saturday at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

[illegible] Bound and Jeb Abrajado, 6th footed Shalem Rance to the deepest of Misoa Bermudez Freezing turned a tight contest in the first three quarters into a rout.

With a 2-2 record, Ozamiz ends all-Mindanao tourney Spring 11-3, and figure [illegible] to the tournament supported by Subic cities, Spring Cooking Oil, Tribo Philippines, Sun Ripped Beef, Cebu's Sun Cellular, Pirelli Lighting, Pizza Inn, Shopping Store, Medina, Hunter's Spring, Budweiser TV and Iron Prime Channel.

"Thankful to song day naming. Pero'ng gut lods can't chemistry," said Ozamiz coach Jeffrey Cabos. "Pagkapanos lamang ni Lonie sa Ubay sa till na [illegible] ballerpal the boys to play like true champions."

| SCORERS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Tagbilaran | 4 | 1 |
| Iligan | 3 | 2 |
| Ozamiz | 2 | 2 |
| Bayawan | 1 | 4 |
| Valencia | 1 | 4 |
| Dumaguete | 4 | 1 |
| Cebu | 3 | 4 |
| Cebu | 3 | 4 |
| Davao | 2 | 3 |
| Cebu | 1 | 3 |

Boys backed a 22-point while Bound and Boyet Zarza had 15 each as Ozamiz limited Iligan to 12 points in the fourth quarter and held Bong Montes, who scored 12 when Iligan won, to 10 in the first encounter, to only five points.

New recruit Sol Cruz paced the Grandson of Mayor Lawrence Cruz with 20 points and 13 rebounds, while Chanel Jose had 14 points, 12 rebounds and three steals.

**The scores:**

**OZAMIZ (84)**— Bound 22, Zarza 15, Abrajado 15, Rance 7, Abrajado 7, Libanan 6, Arcos 2, Libanan 2, Abrajado 2, Libanan 2, Arcos 2.

**Iligan (72)**— [illegible]

**Quarters:** 21-17, 41-40, 71-59, 84-72

## Lapena stuns Orcullo; Manalo triumphs

LIGASEO PINAY sr. LAPENA SANCHEZ DOMINGUEZ DENNIS ORCULLO, THE DEFENDING 2006 ESPA jumped over Bird Open champion, 7-5, to join another Pinoy entry Marlon Manalo in the semifinals of the Singapore Pro Tour yesterday at the Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza. After trailing by one, the 2006 World Pool Champion delivered the [illegible] Lapena crushed Taiwan Kao Jason Chang, 7-4, and Ernesto Mills, 7-4, in the winners side. [illegible] Manalo, who defeated Hsiao, 7-5, Paul Song, 7-5, and Brandt Bridel, 7-5, to set up a duel with [illegible] Orcullo, who defeated Hiddo Hay, 7-3.

**Marlon Bernardino, contributor**

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FRANCHISE FIRST

# Cavs reach NBA finals

## Detroit's defense on James falls into Cleveland's 'Boobie-trap'

**CLEVELAND—FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS are Eastern Conference champions—and on their way to the NBA finals.**

Sagging an entire region's hopes with him on every trip to the basket, LeBron James had 26 points and 14 rebounds, and unflappable rookie Daniel Gibson added 21 points—19 in the fourth quarter—to give the Cavaliers a 89-82 victory in Game 6 against the Detroit Pistons.

Cleveland, a city that hasn't celebrated a world championship since 1964, has the next closest thing. And now the Cavs, who won just 17 games the year before James arrived from just down the freeways in Akron, will meet the San Antonio Spurs in Game 1 of the finals on Thursday night.

James, who scored 48 points in Cleveland's double-overtime win in Game 5, didn't have to carry the Cavs by himself.

Gibson gave him all the help he needed.

The slender second-round pick from Texas, who didn't become a major contributor until March, outshone his superstar teammate. Gibson made three 3-pointers in the first 3:10 of the fourth and drilled another long-range jumper with 6:22 left, setting off a celebration in Quicken Loans Arena.

The Cavaliers are only third team to come back from an 0-2 deficit in a conference finals, joining the 1951 Baltimore Bullets and 1990 Chicago Bulls.

The scrappy cocktail have ended some for the top-seeded Pistons, making their fifth straight appearance in the conference finals.

Rasheed Wallace fouled out and then got thrown out after being slapped with two technicals by referee Eddie Rush with 7:44 to play. Tay Hamilton, too, fouled out after scoring 20 points.

The loss could signal an end of an era for the Pistons, with Chauncey Billups 19 points and Clan Webber (32 both hosted for free agency

GREEN: They call him Boobie AP PHOTO

As the final seconds ticked away, James flung the ball into the crowd and jumped into the arms of center Zydrunas Ilgauskas as the Q quaked. The modest ball he be particularly moved by the gesture, the club's 7-foot-3 center who was drafted by the franchise in 1996 and spent two seasons in the sidelines with major knee injuries.

With wine and gold confetti falling from the rafters, James walked to midcourt to chant Cleveland fans, some of whom were wiping away tears as finally seeing a Cleveland team win something significant.

"That is the best thing that ever happened to me, man," James said, addressing the 20,562 delirious fans. "But look here, look here. It doesn't stop."

Moments later, James was handed the Eastern Conference trophy by Hall of Famer Bill Russell, who had advice for the 22-year-old.

"You are representing the Eastern Conference," the Boston Celtics great said. "Make everyone proud."

Gibson, the hero of Game 4, what. He scored a season-high 22, drained a pair of 3-pointers in the first 1:14 of the fourth quarter, giving the Cavs a 75-67 lead and forcing the Pistons to call time.

"Boobie is a guy with a lot of poise and a lot of heart," Cavs coach Mike Brown said of Gibson during the trophy presentation. "He's a scorer and a shooter. You know him since you hosted watch out, because it's Boobie Hi there."

Not since 1964, when the Browns won it all in the pre-Super Bowl days, has a Cleveland team played for a championship in any sports title. The Browns last those struggle AFC to the to John Elway and the Denver Broncos, and the Indiana Pacers's were a World Series team in 1948.

The Cavaliers, who joined the league in 1970, now have a shot to end a drought that has spanned generations for Cleveland fans.

It fought by delay at the start of the second quarter because of a motorboard malfunction that drained most of the energy from the frozen crowd and prevented the Cavaliers from adding to their pre-game lead.

Annoyed by the delay, James scored only points—all free throws—in the first half.

AP LEBRON James celebrates with teammate Zydrunas Ilgauskas

## *Now it's off to San Antonio for LeBron and Co.*

NEW YORK—LEBRON JAMES AND the Cavaliers can end the city of Cleveland's championship drought. All they have to do is get past a team that's been an expert at winning titles.

The Cavaliers will make their 50th franchise Thursday in San Antonio (9th day in Manila), where the Spurs have hung three banners since 1999 and will be favored to add another.

San Antonio's Gregg Popovich will be matched up against one of his former assistants. Mike Brown spent two seasons with Sam Mitchell and was on the Spurs' bench when they won the 2003 title.

The Cavaliers selected Jamaa Jaric that couldn't make the No. 1 pick in the draft, and he needed only four postseason games to win the NBA's biggest dough.

Cleveland hasn't had a championship team in any major sport since 1964, but has rarely had a player like James, who scored a playoff career-high 48 points, including the Cavs' final 25, for a double-overtime victory in Game 5.

"This is the best thing that ever happened to me, man," James said after the thriller. "But look here. It doesn't stop."

The Cavaliers beat the Spurs in a pair of low-scoring games this season, not surprising for teams run by Popovich and Brown are defensive-minded coaches.

"We have a great relationship, we talk from time to time," Brown said this week. "We'll call and check up on each other, I'll call and ask for advice, he'll call to say good will, or whatever and I'll do the same. But, you know, that's about it.

"I learned a lot in every stop I've been a lot while working for him, and I continue to look at him as a mentor and a guy that you help me out."

The Spurs will be the most-rested team, having swapped up their first game victory over Utah in the Western Conference finals on Wednesday night. San Antonio won't have a game of its own to practice Saturday.

"I spent some time in the pool for the first time in a year," Spurs guard Manu Ginobili said. "It's kind of nice to have a couple of days off. We really enjoyed it, and I think we needed it."

The Spurs, who won titles in 1999, 2003 and 2005, are led by their trio of Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Ginobili.

AP

THE CAVALIERS hope the east trophy LeBron James will take to the NBA trophy AP

# Ibragimov outpoints Briggs for WBO crown

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY—SUKHAT Sukhat Ibragimov easily outpointed Shannon "The General" Briggs for the WBO title Saturday.

Ibragimov's quick left hands dominated the limited Briggs to earn a 12-round decision.

"Tonight I will go to sleep as champion and will wake up as champion, and we'll see what happens after that," the 32-year-old Ibragimov said.

What happened for Briggs was simple: nothing.

The 35-year-old American jawed and posturized, rarely throwing anything dangerous. His performance made his win over Sergei Lyakhovich last Nov. 4 for the crown look like a fluke—Briggs scored a last-minute knockout where he was well behind.

There would be second heroics this time. Ibragimov swept the scorecards, then leaped in the air in the ring when the decision was announced.

"Shannon was a very tough guy," Ibragimov said afterward. "I had to be well-careful, I had to respect Briggs' power. I didn't like that kind of fight, and I don't like to fight like that."

Members of former Soviet republics now hold all four heavyweight belts.

Ibragimov joined Ukraine's Wladimir Klitschko (IBF), Kazakhstan's Oleg Maskaev (WBC) and Ruslan Chagaev of Uzbekistan (WBA) as heavyweight champions.

AP

NADAL: 17-for-17 in French Open. AP

# Mauresmo gets boot in 'home' Slam; Nadal continues march

PARIS—TWO TIME GRAND SLAM champion Amelie Mauresmo was upset in the third round of the French Open on Saturday, losing Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Mauresmo, who won Wimbledon and the Australian Open in 2006, also lost to Kuznetsova while trying to defend her title at Melbourne in January.

"The fact is that there's no mistakes today," Mauresmo said. "I mean, I've been struggling for weeks now. Coming here as the French Open, I didn't really know what to expect."

The Australian Open has never reached the semifinals at Roland Garros in 13 attempts since her debut in 1995. She said she's still not fit after having her appendix removed in March.

Maria Sharapova reached the fourth round of the French Open for the fourth time. She rallied from 4-1 down in the second set to beat Alla Kudryavtseva, 6-1, 6-4, despite a bothersome right shoulder. Two-time defending champion Rafael Nadal defeated Albert Montanes, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2, in his third round match.

Mauresmo lost 5-3 in each set, but she double-faulted for the eighth time to fall behind 2-1 in the tiebreakers and a long backhand gave Safarova three match points. Safarova won when Mauresmo returned her serve into the net.

"I was fighting for each point," said Safarova, a Czech seeded 25th. "I never gave up."

It 4-3 in the first set, the tournament doctor came on court court to treat Mauresmo's upset thigh. She returned after two of her eight drops was wrapped.

"I did not have any particular goal for this tournament because I didn't have enough preparation," Mauresmo said. "You want to give your best in each match, so go on to the end. But it was not enough for me today."

Mauresmo reached the quarterfinals in 2000 and 2004 and lost in the fourth round last year. Safarova lost in the first round at Roland Garros in 2005 and 2006.

"I was very nervous at the beginning," Safarova said. "I tried to just concentrate on each point. I need to come for each point."

AP

SHARAPOVA: Hanging tough AP

# Pampling takes Memorial lead

DUBLIN, OHIO—BOO PAMPLING FIRED HIS SECOND 65 of the week Saturday, and now has a five-shot lead going into the final round at the Memorial.

Pampling was just another name on the leaderboard in a glorious afternoon at Muirfield Village. As daylight began to fade, the Australian began to make charge.

He joined the leaders with a birdie from the bunker on the par-5 13th, just as tournament host Jack Nicklaus and his grandson pulled up to a cart to watch. Pampling went one shot ahead on his stick, bending 40-foot birdie on the 14th.

Adam Scott stayed one shot behind from the 14th with three consecutive up-and-downs, one of them for birdie on the par-5 15th, but he ran out of luck on the 18th for an even par 72. He left him at 204 alongside Dean O'Hair.

AP

# Cebu pounds Negros; Robles checks Manila

CEBU PEPPERED NEGROS with a barrage of hits early and went on seven, a 9-6 victory for the solo lead in the second playoffs of Baseball Philippines' pitch series at the Rizal Memorial ballpark yesterday.

Earlier, ugly spikes! Joe Joe Robles fanned the first six batters he faced and then held his ground as the Manny Montano-trained the Manila Diamonds 7-4.

Cebu bombarded the Negros pitching rotation of Joey Gonzales, Raul Flordeliz and Roberto Bonnevie with a total of 17 hits in the 11th classic posted division and straight sets.

Aaron Gomez, Dennis Ortiz-Cebedo and Erwin Pandes unfolded some hits in the Boonies but the Dolphins' superior batting included a combined 12 hits by Hal-gonzo Rimon and Manuel Jacinto Hilario Negros crowd.

Cebu's extensive night-star began in the first two innings on the roar of the four as the Dolphins followed up on its second-inning 9-0 whipping of Makati a last month's inaugural of the event, presented by Pizzahouse TI Holding and organized by Gen eneral Sports, Inc. (GSI).

"We were hitting well early and that was the key," Cebu coach Jose Jao Jose Jao coach in Filipino.

The left-handed Robles came into the game in place of starter Raul Jacinto after the Diamonds had loaded the count at 4-all with a run in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Robles' staying force lifted the Diamonds to their first victory in two games.

"He came in fresh, so I knew he'd relieve," said Makati coach Johnny Santiago, who the winner of reigning UAAP champion University of Santo Tomas, collegians.

A day earlier at the same venue, the 21-year-old Robles struck out 10 batters to another relief job in the BIT Tigers surged back from 1-3 down to overpower Rizal Technological University, 9-6, in a youth tournament game.

"He's our top guy, and he never gets tired," said Santiago of the first-year's UAAP best pitcher-turned-interview Education student.

The Manila, winner over the the Laguna Tigers, 8-3, last week, joined the Monsters at 1-1 in the five-team tournament sponsored by Gatorade, Rubicon Center, Indomie, of Enterprises, Inc. and Telegraphmaster, Inc., and held under the auspices of Major League Baseball of Asia.

The top finishes after the single-round robin series will clash with the No. 4 team in the semifinals while the No. 2 and No. 3 squads collide in the other duel.

The winners will deepen the title in a winner-take-all match.

**Cebu**
Hal-gonzo Rimon 6 hit
Aaron Gomez 3 hit
Dennis Ortiz-Cebedo 3 hit
Erwin Pandes 2 hit
WINNING PITCHER—Joe Joe Robles (1-0)

**Manila**
Joey Gonzales 3 hit
Raul Flordeliz 3 hit
Roberto Bonnevie 3 hit
LOSING PITCHER—Joey Gonzales (0-1)

CEBU'S Reijuscio Bunoz (right) hears the home to Negros second baseman Jerry Estanislao. STORY

# Ateneo cagers lead 57 Jr. NBA campers

FIFTY-SEVEN PLAYers selected from 15 participating schools will be part of the Junior NBA Training Camp which starts today and ends on Wednesday of the Blue Eagle gym at the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

The camp is the culmination of the inaugural Jr. NBA Philippines program and is hosted by chief instructor Frank Lopez, a Jr. NBA coach from the United States.

Lopez will be joined by multi-titled Blue Eagle coaching staff in NBA Philippines program director Norman Black.

The best six campers will form the Jr. NBA Philippine All-Star Team and will be named to represent the country in the Jr. NBA Asia Championship in Singapore on Oct. 2007-2008 season.

The 12-team contingent of the Ateneo, the champions of the inaugural tournament held last May 30-31 at the Don Bosco Technical, battle in Makati City, automatically gained berths in the camp.

The remaining 45 campers will be selected based on nominations to extend their representatives of each participating school.

Apart from basketball skills, the nominees must have good academic records and be active in their communities.

Lopez and Black are to hold a unique training program based on actual exercises and drills used by NBA teams.

BLACK: Clinic host

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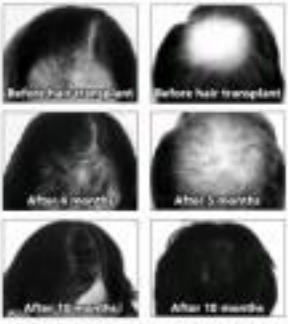


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# Mammoth cast in King of the Road races

A MAMMOTH TOTAL CAST OF 10,000 WILL dispute the Adidas King of the Road (KOTR) races to be held simultaneously on 16 races across the country on July 1.

Weather-permitting, the 16 races will be held at 6 a.m. to avoid the sun's heat.

Meanwhile, Adidas-Cubao for the races in Metro Manila, and the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Laoag, Puerto Princesa, San Fernando in La Union, Tacloban and Tarlac.

Adidas reports outstanding response Greek Camacho said that entries will be limited all or a.m. will be for Metro Manila edition not to be started in front of the Quezon Circle and Park.

Cash prizes and Adidas gift certificates await the top finishers in the Metro Manila, BOTH and the 21 K participants overall.

Participants in the respective 6-km, 10-km and 21-km events may still join the Adidas running duplicate upon registration.

Metro Manila runners may register at the Vanguard Municipal Building at 11 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Monday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The Town Pulse and will be on a first-come first-served basis.

Competitors in Metro Manila will be in the 5K, 10K and the 21K, while the events in the provinces are 5K and 10K.

Registration fees for the provincial races is P150.

Registration entries in the provinces: Cagayan de Oro Sky Prime Sports Center, organized by Big Guns Sports; Cebu, Robinsons Mall organized by City Sports Development Office Tourism Dte; Provincial Capitol Office, organized by Bel Security Services Inc.; Leisure, San Fernando City Mall, organized by Jonard Events; Puerto Princesa, Badjao Inn Inter Island, organized by Puerto Princesa Tourism Development and Promotion Office; Tacloban Mall, organized by Ivo Sports Center; Davao, Gaisano Mall, organized by Kids Educational; and Iloilo City Mall, organized by the Iloilo Jaycee Chamber.

## SPORTSWATCH

LITTLE OLYMPICS: National organizers of the 2007 Nike Little Olympics put their hands together for the biggest multi-sport competition among elementary-level young athletes. Nestle SVP and business executive manager Magsaysay David and Nike MVP for sports awards Pat Gee-ong (third and fourth from left, respectively) are teaming up for the staging of the games with physical Olympic organizers Baby Bakunawa, Lauren Bea Bernardino, Mindanao's Mega Llorente and Metro Manila's Jerry Manuel. Now up in 10th year, the Nike Little Olympics is expected to draw 19,000 primary and secondary students from about 300 schools.

### SJC International Derby draws more entries

THE PHILIPPINES' LONGEST-RUNNING INTERNATIONAL DERBY HELD AT MAKATI'S a former field 1,700 local and foreign participants are seen before the event kicks off the San Juan Corkscrew. Slated June 11, 13 and 15 and with Singapore Corkscrew 2000 as main sponsor, the derby features a guaranteed prize of P1 million. Participants will be competing in two categories: [illegible]

### PCAP 5-cracker kicks off at Makati Coliseum

THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS MAKATI SUPERCOPS CRACKERS (PBA) reunion will play today via the Philippine Amateur Basketball Association (PBA) Philippine Cup 2007 5-a-side Derby at the Makati Coliseum. The 10-night program, the 4th leg of the PCAP series, is sponsored by B-Bday Derby Association Glen Malabanan. Last Friday, the derby 100 Sangre-el partners Sam Mendoza and Rocky Ocbemun of Rizal topped the Makati Association of Cook Derby after crushing a 7-1 win over reunion Pharmacy. Ocbemun, who scored seven goals, Sam Garcia (7&7 Derby Specialist), William Co (Quezon zone 10), Nikki Lazarro (Top of the World), Mark Sanchez (Sta. Martha), and Pascual Bravo (Bay and Eastern Cooking) and the Joker 4 units. Meanwhile, the PCU Sports and Amusement Corp. and William Co will host the Quezon 3-a-Side Derby on Friday with P1 million in guaranteed prize at stake.

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SPORTS

CHAMP: Chow Sanico (center) receives her trophy from tournament chair Dianne Co after capturing the Class B crown in the recent Highlands Ladies Cup at the Midlands Golf Course in Tagaytay. At left is Highlands Ladies Chapter president Rosalind Wee.

# SEAG finalizes venues for next three Games

By Jane Nemeño

THE HOSTING OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN Games for the next six years is already sure to shrink.

The SEAG Federation Council yesterday awarded the next three editions of the biennial contest to Laos, Indonesia and Singapore.

Thailand is hosting the 25th SEA Games in December.

The federation, made up of representatives from the 11-member countries, will bring the Games to Laos in 2009—the first time the tiny land-locked republic and former French colony will host a sporting event of such magnitude.

Indonesia, which has hosted the Games several times since its formation in 1959, will take its turn in 2011 before Singapore holds the competition two decades after its one turn in 1993.

The council meeting also boosted the Philippines' involvement coming Thailand Games.

From 444 events, the council increased the tally to 488.

Happily mentioned in the roster of competitions are several to which the debuting champion Filipinos have good chances of landing a medal, according to Philippine Olympic Committee vice president Monico Puentevella said.

"We got more than what we wanted," the former Inquirer columnist who is the boxing association's top manager. "The details of which events were included, however, will be announced over our (today's) after the council's conference."

Filipino officials attended the meeting, held in Bahrain/Indonesia, Thailand, in Jakarta.

They were there to lobby for the inclusion of 28 events where Filipino athletes won gold medals in the 2005 Manila SEAG.

POC secretary general Jonne Henderson said the meeting went on for four hours before the host agreed to increase the number of events.

Before the Philippine delegation left, the officials made a vow to lobby for additional events in snooker, traditional boat race and shooting, among others.

Of the 22 gold medals in 2005, swimmers world wide were ridiculed by 12 while weightlifters won, when Filipino events except the single gold two years ago, will laugh only two gold medals in Thailand.

# BUSINESS

Edita Red D. Marcelo • Associate Editor Carrie S. Mariano

# Metrobank to build RP's tallest hotel

66-storey, ₱20-B structure to rise in Global City

By Dexter L. Lucas

THE PROPERTY UNIT OF THE METROBANK GROUP plans to build the country's tallest building which will also house a five-star hotel as part of its move to capitalize on the booming tourism business.

Sources familiar with the project revealed that Federal Land Inc. would build a 66-storey structure whose upper 20 floors would be occupied by a 300-room hotel.

The mixed-use complex would be built on the 27-hectare North Reclamation district inside Port Residence District of Cityne Tagaig.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. owns 82.5 hectares of this property, while the remaining 19 odd hectares belong to the state-owned Bases Con-

METROBANK, B4

**IN THIS ISSUE**


- **DBM urges shift in agri department's rice policy** /B4
- **Wind energy project gets perks** /B9

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POWER COST REDUCTION

# Gov't urged to cut royalties on gas, geothermal steam

## STATEMENT OF APOLOGY

I, Jon Patrick C. Chan, am a former employee of SYKES ASIA, INC. and a partner of iSpeak Consultants Co., with address at 708B2 Wack-Wack Twin Towers, Wack-Wack Road, Mandaluyong City.

I sincerely and deeply apologize to SYKES ASIA, INC. ("SYKES"), its officers and employees for whatever damage I may have caused them because of my unauthorized reproduction of SYKES' proprietary training manual.. I also undertake to comply with all of the terms and stipulations contained our Agreement filed before the Office of the Makati City Prosecutor.

I realize that it is wrong to infringe the intellectual creation of others. I realize that what I did was wrong and am very grateful for the compassion that SYKES has shown me.

I support the cause of the Government of the Philippines in implementing education and enforcement efforts to promote respect for intellectual property rights since these are an essential element in promoting a vibrant economy.

___ May 2007, Makati City.

By Russel W. Dumlao

THE NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL has asked the government to cut down the royalties it collects from power plants that access its natural gas and geothermal energy if it hopes to reduce power costs and attract investors to local industries.

According to the Philippine Exporters Confederation, the NCC's working group on the energy sector reported that, three years after the mandated opening up of markets to competition under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), "real gains accrued" has yet to unfurl.

Open access means that electricity markets, unlike than the previous set up of monopolies, are open to more service providers.

Philexport, where the private and public sectors are represented, is active in the NCC, which is co-chaired by Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Iloilo governor Niner Tupas.

"It also found that a big slice of (high power rates) are royalties or shares from earnings the government has been taking from geothermal plants across the country, and the big power plants in Luzon that are fueled by natural gas from Malampaya," Philexport said.

Royalties are collected because the natural gas, a basin of petroleum, from Malampaya, as well as volcanic heat—from areas such as Mobiling-Banahaw, Bacon-Manito and Tiwi in Luzon; Leyte in the Visayas; and Mt. Apo in Mindanao—are considered properties of the state, since these are tapped from deep underground reservoirs.

Geothermal power plants account for a total of some 1,870 megawatts of installed capacity, while the three natural gas-fed plants in Batangas represent 2,760 MW.

"The high royalties have jacked up the generation cost of power in levels only slightly lower than Japan," Philexport said, adding this is one factor that has been driving down the economy's global competitiveness.

The council's energy working group recommended that royalties be cut for at least four years starting this year as an immediate way to bring down power costs.

Also, the NCC said that, for royalty reductions to effectively help drive down costs of manufacturing and other energy consuming economic activities, the result should be power rate reductions of between 10 percent and 30 percent of current prices.

Further, the NCC working group recommended that, as a way of encouraging voluntary open access that would promote power rate cuts, the Manila Electric Co. should not be forced to commit to fixed volumes of purchases from the National Power Corp.

"A recently implemented customer choice program for companies with average monthly consumption of at least one megawatt failed to take off because of the imposition of fixed, non-bypassable charges brought at wholesale prices," Philexport said.

Also, the NCC working group called for changes in the Epira's provision that direct purchases from large power consumers could only be allowed after Napocor has sold at least 70 percent of its generating capacity.

"To date, (Napocor has privatized) a few of those plants," Philexport said. "Council members observed that nothing will happen in reducing power rates in years if we (stick to the requirement)."

# Meralco seeks lower power rates for Customer Choice Program

BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?
FLYPAD
FOR LAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

By Abigail L. Ho

TO MAKE ITS RETAIL POWER SALES PROGRAM more attractive to customers, the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. is asking the National Power Corp. to offer lower rates tailored for entities who will avail of the Customer Choice Program (CCP).

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said that instead of just offering CCP customers Napocor's time-of-use (TOU) rates, special rates could be offered to them to make the scheme more attractive.

"We told Napocor that maybe they can offer CCP customers the rates that they will offer when open access is implemented," he said. "The TOU rates are not very attractive for some of the customers. We have to try to make it more attractive to them."

Francisco said customers are "not rushing up for the program because they're waiting for a better rate structure."

"They're hesitating because they don't want to be tied down to the program for six months," he added. "The savings they will generate from TOU rates are not big enough to attract them."

The CCP allows Meralco customers with a peak demand of at least 750 kilowatts a month to take advantage of Napocor's TOU rates.

The TOU scheme provides Napocor customers with flexible hourly rates that are lowest during off-peak hours, or between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and highest during peak hours, or from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sundays and holidays are also considered off-peak times.

Rates are also lowest during the rest months, or from July to December, as electricity demand usually falls during this time due to the colder weather. Hydroelectric plants are also able to produce more power during these months.

Industrial users can opt to shift their loads to off-peak hours to take advantage of lower rates.

The CCP gives enrollable large power users or **mall clienteles of lower electricity rates and to address the looming power supply problem.**

Meralco currently has only one customer under the CCP—Japanese firm Fujitsu Corp. Philippines.

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# RP tax effort down to 12.2% in first quarter

## 15% target for '07 seen hard to meet

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE COUNTRY'S TAX EFFORT DROPPED TO 12.2 percent in the first quarter from 13 percent in the same period a year ago, derailing the government's objective of bringing the figure back to pre-Asian crisis levels.

Tax effort, a closely watched economic indicator, is the ratio between the national government's tax and duty collection, and the country's gross domestic product. It measures the government's ability to increase the collection of revenues commensurate with the growth of the economy.

Government data showed that the tax effort of 12.2 percent was a result of the P165.6 billion worth of tax and duty collections, and the P1.32 trillion worth of gross domestic product. GDP is the sum of the value of all goods produced and services rendered in an economy in a given period.

The first-quarter tax effort dropped because the rate of increase in tax collections was slower than the growth of the economy.

In nominal terms, the GDP in the first quarter was 10 percent higher than the P1.20 trillion recorded in the same period last year. In real terms, or when inflation is factored out, the economy grew 6.9 percent in the first quarter, the highest in 17 years.

The growth was attributed to increased government spending and higher household consumption, which was aided by the slowdown in inflation, the decline in interest rates and strengthening of the peso.

But while the economy grew rapidly, the revenue collection was underwhelmed. The combined revenue collection of the BIR and the BOC in the first quarter was only 3.4 percent higher than the P176.44 billion recorded a year ago.

The first-quarter tax-collection performance placed the government off track to meeting its target of a 15.2 percent tax effort by the end of this year.

The government's fiscal managers were aiming at bringing back the tax effort to 17 percent over the medium term. The last effort of 17 percent was last recorded in 1997, or before the Asian financial crisis.

After the crisis, tax effort dropped steadily to the 12 percent level. It started rising in 2000, when it settled at 13 percent and then at 14.3 percent last year.

The BIR said the lower-than-expected collections of taxes was partly due to factors beyond its control. It cited the drop in interest rate, which resulted in lower income from bank deposits and therefore lower collection income tax.

## MVP reappointed FirstPac managing director, CEO

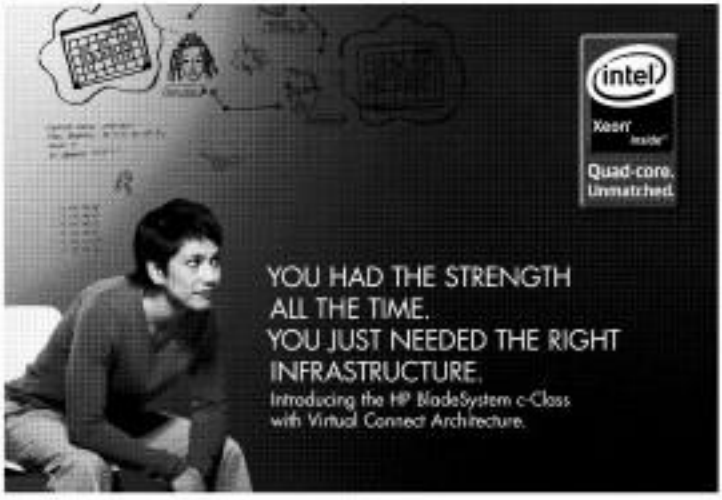
SHAREHOLDERS OF FIRST PACIFIC CO. LTD. yesterday reelected its outgoing Manuel Pangilinan as managing director and chief executive officer.

Pangilinan is the chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Also reelected was the reelection of all other First Pacific directors whose terms had expired based on normal rotation.

Shareholders also renewed the existing general mandate for the company's board to repurchase certain buyback and approved a general mandate for the company to issue new shares.

Any mismatch. First Pacific said at least would maintain the flexibility to pursue these options if other business necessary and appropriate based on changing circumstances in the future.



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# DBM urges shift in agri department's rice policy

## Goal of rice self-sufficiency described to be 'illusory'

By Doris C. Dantico

THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND Management has questioned the country's policy of attaining "rice sufficiency" via costly market interventions, which only resulted in losses to the billions of pesos.

Confidential DBM documents, which outlined a proposed budget strategy for 2008 to 2010, showed a call for institutions underpinning the Department of Agriculture and attached agencies National Food Authority and National Irrigation Authority.

"The Philippines has a comparative disadvantage in rice growing, and rice will not become a both costly and illusory," the DBM's paper said.

To improve the composition and quality of public expenditures and investments, the DBM called for a policy shift away from rice sufficiency to "supply-led mobilization."

It also urged a reduction in the tariff rate on the main staple to 20 percent and changes in the Lito expenditures.

According to the paper, the NFA's market intervention only has a limited effect, "but it has accumulated losses of P21 billion as of end-2005."

By the end of this year, the DBM estimated that NIA would accumulate P72.4 billion worth of debt. And if the NIA were to stick to the present policy its debt could balloon from P72.4 billion by 2010. This would translate to P6.1 billion in annual debt servicing after 2010.

"National food sustainability will be seriously at risk," the DBM warned. "[It can] impair to the national government's international borrowing and interest rate."

To improve the competition and quality of public expenditures and investments, the DBM suggested a shift from "rice sufficiency" to "supply-led mobilization" through the following measures:

- Gradual reduction of subsidies to irrigation (productive support and irrigation development, which are biased towards cities);
- Gradual increase in expenditures on public goods;
- Reliance on existing public investments in irrigation;
- Enhance water management and skills operations; and,
- Address weaknesses in research and development and agricultural extension services institutional framework.

Under the proposal, the NIA will be allowed to maintain its market interventions with a net annual price ceiling and loss subsidy.

But the NIA must reduce its workforce by at least 1,000. It must also allow traders to import rice by rendering the estimated annual import quota on a regular basis.

In addition to reducing and refinancing the NFA's debt, even the biggest contributor to the consolidated public deficit, the DBM said the government must also ensure the agency would have an adequate capital base to be commercially viable.

The DBM said rice sufficiency taking a 60-per cent share of the NIA public expenditure versus a 16-percent contribution to gross domestic product, while rural poverty remained a persistent policy issue.

It noted that the rice-sufficiency program had been "welfare reducing," with welfare losses significantly exceeding welfare gains by an average of P50 billion a year, with very little of producers' gains accruing to the poor rice consumers both.

Over the long term, the DBM said a "structural adjustment assistance package" must be given to rice farmers, funding for which would come from tariff and savings from budget subsidies to the NFA.


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# Animal health group declares RP to be free of FMD

By Amy R. Remo

THE WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR Animal Health has recently reaffirmed the country's foot-free from the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease during the 75th annual general session of the International Committee held in Paris, France last month.

At the sidelines of the Food Convention Harvest, Bureau of Animal Industry Director Dorotea Cabagnot said that the OIE signals has declared Visayas, Mindanao, Bicolano and Palawan to be totally free of FMD.

Visayas and Mindanao have been declared as FMD-free for more than a decade now, and Luzon, for more than a year.

According to Cabagnot, the department is now preparing and working on getting the National Capital Region, Batangas, Bulacan, Laguna and Nueva Ecija to be declared as FMD-free.

"If no FMD-related incidents happen in the next six months, we are ready to lodge our application to the OIE by January next year and then until the end of the six months by May 2008 when the committee reconvenes," said Cabagnot.

He added that the BAI would need P30 million to fund its programs to ensure that the country would stay free of FMD.

One of its programs is the overnight ruling quarantine controls.

Another would focus on the NCR and the four provinces by encoding all movements and issuance of animals from one province to another and putting up strategic checkpoints to ensure that no unchecked animal will be smuggled to and fro.

Cabagnot added that they are strengthening their information campaigns drive, as well as done vaccination of backyard animals.

"If we can maintain the May 2008 deliberations, then the whole country can be declared FMD-free, and that's something we can take advantage of," said Cabagnot.

As it is, the country has already reaped the benefits of having some of its areas declared as totally FMD free.

For this year, the Department of Agriculture already reports the country's hog industry to grow 3.5 percent as it expects a rise in trade of Philippine meat products with Singapore, Russia, Japan, Mexico, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian countries.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap earlier said that, aside from frozen meat, the department was right processed meat items to raise pesos using the global market this year as the Philippines moves closer to being declared totally free of FMD by the OIE.

The processed products are luncheon meat, spam, pork and beans, lechon paksiw, pork adobo, asog, chili con carne and bottle tapsilog.

"Singapore is willing to accept Philippine exports of fresh, frozen meat, subject to certain conditions, which are being worked out," Yap said. "We are looking at Japan, which is the world's big meat importer, as another major market for our meat exports."


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# Conflict in gov't production data rooted out

By Michelle V. Rosco

THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL COORDINATION BOARD (NSCB) found itself on the growing confusion over the true state of the country's manufacturing industry—product lists of which was reported to be growing by a robust rate in one government survey, while in another official report, it was seen to be on the decline.

According to the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (Misi), conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector had been posting a year-on-year decline in production since January, taking recourse in another survey by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

According to the Misi, output of production in manufacturers dropped 7.6 percent in March from a year ago. In January and February, production indexes also dropped 0.4 percent and 13.9 percent year-on-year, respectively.

But according to the National Accounts of the Philippines, which is prepared by the NSCB, the sector had actually been contributing positively to the country's economy, which posted a 6.9-percent growth in the first quarter—the highest in 17 years.

The National Accounts said the manufacturing sector grew by 4.6 percent in the first quarter from that of the same period a year ago, and by a similar margin for the full year of 2006.

The discrepancy between the two surveys caused doubts on the accuracy of the government's statistical reports. But the NSCB said the difference was actual, as a result of diverse sampling methods.

Romulo Virola, statistics general of the NSCB, said the Misi includes only "registered" manufacturing firms in its samples. He said "registered" firms are those that are either registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and belonged to the manufacturing industry's association.

On the other hand, the National Accounts takes a wider sample for computing the performance of the manufacturing sector, and includes the so-called "unregistered" industry members.

He explained that "unregistered" manufacturers are those that are not registered with the SEC and are mostly doing production at home.

Virola said the Misi was correct in representing the performance of upscale firms. On the other hand, the reported performance in the National Accounts represents the state of both small and large-scale manufacturing in the

But while saying none of the two reports were incorrect, Virola added that there was an ongoing program to update the samples of the Misi.

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# Metrobank to build RP's tallest hotel

From page B1

tourism and Development Authority (BCDA).

The building's lower floors would also house high-grade office space, while a part of 40-storey residential tower would also be built beside it.

Bulwol Land chief Alfred Ty said the metro complex would cost approximately P20 billion.

In making the announcement, Tourism Secretary Ermita lauded the initiative, saying it would further boost the tourism industry.

"The Japanese are all interesting in tourism now," he said, referring to the country's recent Discover Philippines International.

Ermita said that "if they're investing in the hospitality business is a big vote of confidence."

The Metrobank Group already has a small footprint in the tourism business through its hotel in Cebu City, manager/by the Manor Polo chain.

Its most recent foray into the booming sector, however, follows the move of other conglomerates, like SM Investment Corp.'s launch of its P5-billion Manila Bay resort complex and Ayala Land Inc.'s P7.4-billion deal with Singapore's Banyan Tree Holdings to open a three-hotel complex in Makati City.

"I have always said that if we couldn't control our cost and expand to serve as tourists, then we wouldn't be able to convince other investors to come in," Ermita said.

Once completed, the six-star complex would have a total floor area of 185,000 square meters. The hotel would be a part of a master plan being developed by Bellfruth, Oberoi & Eastabrook Inc. International Ltd.

The tourism chief said that the Metrobank Group's project would ease the problem of lack of hotel rooms, which is one of the key issues Bellfruth is the industry, the other being the lack of airline seats into and out of the country.

"If we address these bottlenecks, we would really achieve 10 to 15 million tourists each year," he said.

Ermita pointed out that the rising number of tourist arrivals have already resulted in the remembering out of occupancy rates in Metro Manila, virtually eliminating peak and brought expectations to be met.

He added that Cebu has also resulted in the "over-utilization" of The Mactan-Cebu International Airport's Terminal 1 by as much as 107 percent, making the opening of the multibillion Terminal 2 concession urgent.

AN ARTIST'S concept of the proposed Metroserp redevelopment and adjoining structures.

# Retirement fund stake in SMC up to 10.16%

## Recent acquisitions boosted holdings

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP. RETIREMENT PLAN HAS increased its holdings in San Miguel Corp. to 10.16 percent or a total of 328.45 million shares, with the recent additional purchase of 36.68 million class B shares, company corporate secretary Francis Jardeleza said.

Based on the company's top 100 stockholders report earlier filed with the stock exchange, SMC Retirement Plan previously owned 2.3 percent of class B SMC shares and 1.02 percent of class A shares.

Class B shares are those that can be held by foreign investors.

SMC Retirement Plan manages the pension fund of employees of SMC.

With the increased shareholding, SMC Retirement Plan becomes the ninth of institutional shareholder of the company. [Jardeleza said].

In an ownership report sent to the stock exchange, SMC Retirement Plan said it had acquired a total of 320 million SMC shares, comprised of 224.31 million class A shares (7.22 percent) and 95.7 million class B shares (3.04 percent) from March 19 to May 30 this year.

The deals were valued at roughly P19.38 billion.

Included in those deals was the 6 percent held by state pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), which SMC Retirement Plan bought at P71.120 per share or a total of P34.01 billion.

It also acquired 56.68 million class B shares held by companies controlled by SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr. at 365 per share for a total of P4.82 billion.

Smaller corporate acts done during the period also included a total of 4.29 million A and B shares valued at P509.78 million.

SMC sends net which was from shareholders to allow it to dive into new investments outside of diet and beverage arena to grow its profits. The company so far announced an ambitious plan to keep this new high growth business such as power generation or transmission, water, other utilities, mining and infrastructure.

# ETPI sets aside P600M for capex

EASTERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES Inc. (ETPI), a 57.7 percent owned subsidiary of Metro Pacific Communications Inc., is spending P600 million to transform it self into a next generation telecommunications provider, BM president Eric Recto said.

Last year, ETPI's capital expenditure amounted to P129 million. This was used primarily in replacing its local exchange carrier switches with more powerful networking technology.

With the broad intent to modernize key architectural components in telecommunications core and access networks that will be deployed over the next five to 10 years, Internet business abroad.

"ETPI has invested in an MGN core by Nokia. There will be additional capex in MGN to convert the traditional system of telephony into an information technology (IT) telecommunications technology," Recto said.

ETPI is engaged in the operation, installation and establishment of commercial telecommunication, point to point domestic inter-island and international communications and other telecommunications services.

ETPI made a turnaround year around in 2006 after six years of losses and reported a profit of P21 million. In 2005, the company's losses reached P5.63 million.

ETPI's favorable performance was driven mainly by transfer-cost savings programs, corporate reorganization, restructuring of securities loans and settlement of vendor claims and dividend income from ETPI's investment in a cable ship operator.

Part of the funds for ETPI's capital requirement will come from a stock right offer of BM, that aims to distill P500 million from the sale of stock rights.

BM plans to acquire an additional 15.26 percent in ETPI with some proceeds from the stock right offer. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson


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# Neri backs gov't buyout of MRT-3 BLT contract

By Doris C. Dumlao

ROMULO NERI

SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING Secretary Romulo Neri said it makes economic sense for the government to take over the build-lease-transfer contract governing the Metro Railway Transit 3.

Neri reasoned that the proposed buyout would term the government's financing costs on the utility by at least 400 basis points.

"The logic is that the private sector undertaking the project is borrowing at a very high cost so therefore, when we have to pay them for operating and financial costs, we have to pay more," Neri said in a briefing.

"If government takes over, government can buy the debt at a bigger discount and borrow against it at a lower rate," Neri added.

He estimated that the private firms borrow at a commercial rate of 8.4 percent, compared to government's borrowing cost of 5.4 percent.

The government plans to restructure the payments owed to the Japanese carmaker of MRT3 Sojitz Corp., a subcontractor of Philippine Corp.

The restructuring will cut just some the past due accounts amounting to $50-$60 million, but also the payments due for the rest of the contract.

The source that the government will assist its commitments early, instead of paying $2 billion over the life of the contract or up to 2020.

An earlier study earlier out, showed that the government could save $1 billion from the early buyout of MRT3 or half of the remaining payments due until 2020.

Under the contract, the government has committed a 15- percent return on equity to the private investors in the MRT3 project.

# New investors to boost profit of PNOC unit

By Abigail L. Hu

PNOC ALTERNATIVE FUELS Corp. expects to be the biggest cash cow of the Philippine National Oil Co. in four years, due mainly to the more than $2 billion in investments that it has so far received from investors.

In a briefing, PNOC AFC chair Renato Velasco said the new $2 billion in committed investments for the next three years was just from two investors: $1.3 billion from Petron Corp. (Chemical Engineering Pte. Ltd. and $1 billion from Tan Brothers Energy Ltd.

"Hopefully, in the next four years, we will be the biggest among PNOC's subsidiaries. The $2 billion in investments don't even include our other tie-ups with Hanwha Corp., Samsung Corp. and Hyundaenia Inc. We're very optimistic," he said.

When PNOC AFC used to be PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp., he said the company's industrial park in Bataan was losing around P200 million a year.

Because of an Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) opinion issued earlier this year, however, he said the industrial park in Limay and Mariveles should start generating revenue for PNOC AFC by next year.

Prior to the OGCC opinion, only government facilities could be established inside PNOC AFC's 320-hectare industrial estate.

With the OGCC opinion, however, the petrochemical park could now be used as a site for alternative fuels facilities, such as biodiesel and bio-ethanol refineries.

# Pacific Online's May revenue hit P40M

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PACIFIC ONLINE SYSTEMS Corp. (Pacific Online), the government's lone online lottery system supplier in Visayas and Mindanao, said its revenue in May hit P40 million, its highest for a month.

This after lotto sales in the region registered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes (PCSO) Visayan Mindanao hit a record of P394.695 million last May. Pacific Online said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

The figure was 23 percent more than sales recorded in the same month last year.

Sales were mainly driven by the high jackpot of the Superlotto 6/49 pegged at P180 million on May 31, and reported to hit P320 million by June 3.

"We expect sales and revenue growth momentum as PCSO lotto games become increasingly popular nationwide. Pacific Online is selling out 500 terminals in 2007," Pacific Online chair Willy Ong said.

Pacific Online earlier reported an 8% percent increase in its net income for the first quarter to P27.3 million from P14.4 million in the same period in 2006.

Pacific Online said gross revenues rose 5 percent to P167.9 million year-on-year, fueled by the rollout of terminals. Pacific Online now has 1,120 terminals from 980 in December 2006.

Total expenses shrank 11 percent to P71.4 million in the first quarter this year.

The company continues to expect strong revenues from the roll-out of additional terminals and the introduction of new games.

# Pru Life UK nears bancassurance deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

BRITISH PRU LIFE UK, THE Philippine unit of British financial giant Prudential plc, is set to forge a bancassurance deal in two months.

In a briefing last Friday, PRU life UK president and CEO Hideo Ray Maeda said the insurer's source is to bancassurance would mean the establishment of bancassurance.

Bancassurance is the selling of life insurance products in bank shares.

In the Philippines, however, banks are only allowed to sell the life insurance products of affiliates, which means the lender has to own 51 percent of the insurance company.

The company has been scouting for a bancassurance partner for the last few years.

Majorudan said bancassurance was part of the company's thrust in the Philippines to continue growing its business network.

On Friday, the company launched Pinlah Protection Plus, a life insurance product with hospitalization and critical illness benefits.

"I am confident this product will confirm our position as a leader in product innovation," Majorudan said.

Pru Life currently sells primarily by its agency channel market, but has plans to make greater inroads into the ID market.

# Stock market seen ...

From page B1

The government's debt-to-GDP ratio of 60 percent in 2006 was higher than its 56-point peers in Asia, Bahrain, Malaysia and Jordan.

Strong economic prospects this year and sustained fiscal reform may convince rating agencies to upgrade the country's debt ratings, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a statement.

The government aims to limit its budget gap this year to P63 billion or 0.9 percent of GDP. Last year's gap was 1.9 percent of GDP. Elizabeth C. Lacson


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# When the US sneezes...

IT IS often said that when the US economy sneezes, Asia—and much of the world, for that matter—catches a cold. And the reason for this is that as the biggest economy in the world, the United States tends to be at or near the top of many countries' list of biggest trading and investment partners.

## Biggest buyer

For the Asean 5 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), the United States is situated among the two biggest buyers of their exports. It may not also seem people to know that within our neighborhood, it is not the Philippines but Malaysia that now has the greatest export dependence on the United States, which from one-fifth (19.5 percent) of that country's merchandise exports.

For the Philippines, China recently dislodged the United States as our biggest export buyer, accounting for around 15.5 percent of our exports, against the United States's 16 percent—suggesting that these days, it is China's income that we need to be more wary of.

But have come a long way in reducing our trade dependence on the United States since the 1990s, and this is good. In 2000, the United States took 36 percent of our merchandise exports, with Japan a far second at 19.6 percent. China was a non-entity in our foreign trade then, taking in from one percent of our exports at the most.

## Regional outlook

There is an important significance to all this for the outlook on the Asian economies, as presented during in the recently-published 2007 Regional Economic Outlook (REO) for Asia Pacific by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Consistent with its forecast for the rest of the world, the IMF expects Asia's economic growth to moderate somewhat this year and the next.

**No Free Lunch**

*Cielito F. Habito*

The report cautions both good news and bad news for the Philippines. The bad news is that we have grown more slowly than most of our neighbors, and will continue to lag behind in the near ahead, the recent 6.9 percent first quarter GDP growth notwithstanding. Asian economies grew by an average of 7.3 percent last year, where we managed only 5.4 percent. The good news is that the IMF has raised our 2007 GDP growth forecast to 5.8 percent, from the 5.4 percent they projected last September. With the most unexpected news on our first quarter growth, IMF may yet further raise this forecast.

## US sneeze

The IMF scenario of moderating growth for Asian economies was also conditioned by the current slowdown in the US economy. America has been sneezing a bit lately, with its housing sector reflecting the true most prominently. This translates to slower consumer spending, which in turn slows down performance in much of the rest of the US economy.

The recent US government report on first-quarter economic performance confirms all this. The nation's GDP grew at a mere 0.6 percent on an annual basis, the slowest quarterly growth in more than four years, and less than half the 1.3 percent anticipated earlier by the US Commerce Department. US exports actually fell by 0.8 percent, widening its trade deficit even further. It is the following US deficits—both in government finances and external payments—that have understandably contributed to the fear of more dollar in turn leading to the appreciation of Asian currencies, including ours.

## No more contagion

In a recent forum that launched the IMF's REO in Manila, panelists downplayed the effects of the US economic slowdown on Asian economies' outlook, including that for the Philippines.

Gen, the United States has become less important as a destination for Asia's exports over the years. While it accounted for 16 percent of India's exports in 1990, this share is now down to 10 percent. As with the Philippines, much of this export trade has moved over to China. In 1990, China took up a mere 3.9 percent of Asia's exports; this had more than tripled to almost 13 percent as of last year.

Too, the US slowdown will be offset by the continuing rapid growth of China—rich echo of India—which has had a positive effect on most of the Asian economies. The Philippines, for one, has been a clear beneficiary of China's rapid growth, having enjoyed trade surpluses with that country in recent years.

## China slowdown?

The more interesting question to ask, then, is whether China itself will slow down. It is quite likely it could catch a slight cold from the US sneeze, as the United States is actually China's biggest export buyer, accounting for 21.4 percent of its exports. Besides, China has been deliberately trying to slow its growth down to single-digit levels for the last few years—since initially in fact 2003 for US economic help, will they finally succeed this year?

Well, if they do, it's clearly no-no's to be enjoying over our unexpected (and probably unsustainable) first-quarter 6.9 percent growth.

*Comments on this column at chabito@inquirer.net.ph.*

# Tanduay putting up 4th plant

## For stock market, correction seen in week ahead

THE STOCK MARKET IS EXPECTED TO LIST last week's losses and, getting fully charged up next week, brokers said.

The Philippine main composite index rolled by 105.59 points or 3.06 percent last week to close at 3,347.38, an all-time high.

"The market had a solid rather weaker rate, translating to a loss of 2,294.61 and a high of 3,347.38," said Solidbank Corporation said in a market note.

For this week, it said, a technical correction was likely.

In addition to the risks presented by a possible Chinese sell-off again, some technical indicators suggest that the market is overbought. We remain bullish on the long-term outlook, but investors should expect a near-term correction," AB Capital said.

The stock market showed the 6.9 percent growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter as it was the highest rate recorded in 17 years and way above the forecast of 5.7 to 6.3 percent.

In the same market note, AB Capital said the strong performance in the first quarter made the government optimistic that the 6.1 percent GDP growth target for the whole year would be achieved.

Most analysts and economists, however, are expected to raise their respective GDP growth estimates, which are mostly below 6 percent, the economists' forecast said.

"It appears the whole market is being overplayed based on strong first quarter figures," said Francisco Jimeno, PCIB securities president.

Investors more were reported last week that Monday's investors flow rate reaffirmed to stay bullish on the Philippine economy, despite that real government revenues could not yet bind major infrastructure needs.

## ₱600M earmarked for rum facility in Misamis Oriental

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TANDUAY DISTILLERS INC., a 100 percent owned unit of listed firm Tanduay Holdings Inc., is spending ₱600 million for a new rum manufacturing plant in El Salvador, Misamis Oriental.

Tanduay president Wilson Sycip said the new facility was scheduled to start commercial operations in July.

The Misamis Oriental facility, which will be Tanduay's fourth plant, will produce 50,000 cases of rum a day.

Tanduay has three other liquor plants in Quezon, Manila, Cabanatuan, Laguna and Negros Occidental. Each plant has a capacity to produce about 60,000 cases of liquor—or rum and gin—a day.

"Our sales of rum in 2006 were lower by 6 percent from that in 2005. More consumers in Luzon, especially Do younger segment, favored brandy over traditional drinks like rum and gin," Sycip-ay Bobbing chair Lucio Tan told shareholders recently.

Tan said the was very different from the usual abroad where rum was becoming increasingly popular.

# Court OKs pre-need firm rehab plan

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL Court has approved the rehabilitation plan of The Professional Group, giving the beleaguered pre-need firm the chance to get back on its feet.

In a decision dated May 28, Makati Judge Cesar O. Untalan approved the recommendation of TPG receiver Archie R. Fonacier to push through with the rehabilitation program.

A company statement quoted Untalan as saying that he would deny any motion for the court not giving TPG a chance to undertake a rehabilitation program to protect the interest of its plan holders.

"The [company's] modified rehabilitation plan ... presented is feasible and attainable course of action to rehabilitate petitioner," Untalan said.

The approved rehabilitation plan focuses on the following three key elements:

- The need to fix the plan beset by effect of spot-traded plans to mitigate the effects of uncontrolled series increases;
- The need to reschedule the plan maturity to provide breathing space while the trust fund assets were growing; and
- The need to invest the trust fund assets in higher yielding investments to ensure the payment of benefits to plan holders whose plans have matured, while simultaneously preserving the trust fund to cover plans that have yet to mature.

This means that in terms of amounts of benefits, only the open-ended or traditional plans will be modified based on contributions paid.

Fixed-value plans for academic and pension plans will be paid according to the original maturity value of their contracts.

For academic plans and pension plans that matured in 2000-2006, the courts gave TPG six months from the date of court approval to resume benefit payments, which should be made in accordance with the specifications of the approved modified rehabilitation plan.

TPG said in a statement that its rehabilitation plan gave all plan holders equal rights.

"From the beginning, the formulation of TPG's rehabilitation plan has been guided by the principle of equity: Any solution is to be considered in the plan must benefit all plan holders and cannot favor any particular group," TPG president Rhoda D. Mendoza said in a statement.

With the plan now approved, TPG intends to focus on two areas: Servicing of the restructured plans and the investment and growth of its trust funds.

TPG was the fourth pre-need firm to file for rehabilitation due to financial woes. The others were Philippine Pharmaz Inc., Platinum Plans and College Assurance Plan.

**HSBC IN GLOBAL CITY**

**HSBC Philippines CEO Mark Wankmuller, HSBC Asia-Pacific CEO Mike Smith and MIP Planning Board member Alfredo Antonio to be the formal inauguration of HSBC Center at the Bonifacio Global City. Covering nearly 12,000 square meters, the facility will house more than a thousand employees performing various support functions for the bank's 14 branches nationwide.**

# Moody's raises PLDT debt rating

By Daniel L. Lucas

AN INTERNATIONAL DEBT WATCHER HAS raised the credit rating of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) after the country's largest telecom firm reported a strong performance in the first quarter of the year.

In a statement, Moody's Investors Service said it had raised PLDT's local currency issuer rating to Baa2 from Baa3.

Moody's also affirmed PLDT's Baa2 foreign currency bond rating, while maintaining its ratings outlook at "stable."

Moody's said PLDT's present rating reflects the company's position as the largest telecommunications operator in the Philippines; strong consolidated financial metrics; dominant market position, founded on its integrated business platform; and its moderate sensitivity to technological developments and competitive pressures.

"However, these factors are counterbalanced by country-specific issues, such as uncertainties surrounding the Philippines' political and economic environment," the rating firm noted.

"Any deterioration in the political system or changes in the regulatory regime could impact PLDT's operating profile and prospects for growth," it said.

The upgrade reflects "continued improvement in PLDT's financial profile and the consolidation of its strong operating performance," Moody's vice president Laura Acres said.

"In the other terms, the company holds 56 percent of the Philippines' wireless market and 63 percent of the fixed-line business, and both positions contribute to its healthy free cash flow generation capabilities," she added.

The credit outlook reflects Moody's expectations that PLDT will execute its business plans as outlined.

Moody's also stressed that the company's foreign currency bond rating could not be raised further without an improvement in the Philippines' foreign currency country ceiling.

PLDT's "financial profile ranks among its strongest credit characteristics, hence any upward pressure on the local currency rating would be more reflective of a mobilizing economic, political and social environment reducing the operating environment uncertainties the company faced.

Specifically, Moody's would look for PLDT to **maintain its existing sound financial profile,"** it added. "On the other hand, downward pressure **is not expected given that PLDT currently enjoys** a healthy financial and operating risk profile."

Moody's added that "events that is always a possibility because of the problem many of the environmental and political events cannot."

# HSBC keen on going into insurance business in RP

By Doris C. Dantiao

BRITISH BANKING GIANT HSBC IS TREADING UP a fresh strategy to establish a foothold in the Philippine insurance business.

The bank also reaffirmed its vote of confidence on the country with the opening last week of the HSBC Center, an 11,900-sq. m. landmark built at the first Bonifacio Global City.

In an interview, visiting HSBC Asia-Pacific chief executive officer Michael Smith said he had seen a lot of progress in the Philippines since his last visit a little less-and-a-half years ago.

"I'm very positive about the Philippines," he said.

Smith said issue once seen among the areas in that HSBC wanted to explore in the country is first with reservations that the weak's management business would have in Asia-Pacific region.

"We need more insurance products, better delivery and better strategy because of the insurance business' potentials," he said.

HSBC Philippines CEO Mark Wankmuller added that the bank was now pooling together a strategic plan to enable the bank to grab bigger opportunities in the insurance business.

Asked whether bancassurance, or the selling of insurance products through ties between banks and insurance firms, was part of the plan, Smith said HSBC was looking at all options available.

He said banks and insurance firms were natural partners in the wealth management side of the business.

"As the country's per capita GDP (gross domestic product) rises, the amount of disposable income increases and the ability of individuals to look for ways to manage their surplus assets will become more and more important, as is the protection of those assets," Smith said.

Consumer banking was likewise seen becoming increasingly important in the developing markets, like the Philippines.

He said HSBC's robust credit card business in the country was a good example of opportunities in consumer banking.

The offer area which the bank has been focusing on is the SME (small and medium enterprises) sector. SMEs don't just need capital, they also need cash management services, and there's a lot of opportunity here moving forward," he said.

# SSS hosts OFW Day and Jobs Fair

IN ITS CONTINUING EFFORT TO BRING its services closer to members, the Social Security System (SSS) will host the first OFW Day and Jobs Fair for all overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families. This was announced by SSS Vice President for Public Affairs Marissa C. Bugtong who added that the event will be held on Friday, June 8, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the SSS Livelihood Trade Center, Edsa Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City (fronting the Land Transportation Office).

"With the theme 'SSS at OFW Magkaagapay Magkalapit, Magkabuklod Magpakailanman', the event aims to reach out to the OFWs and their families as a fitting tribute to all migrant workers in celebration of the Migrant Workers' Day on June 7," Bugtong said.

The whole-day event will feature services such as labor information, free seminars on livelihood, job, investment and business opportunities, free legal assistance and counseling, and free medical mission. Lots of giveaways and promotional items are also to draw from sponsors like Globe Telecom, Smart Center, Filinvest Land Inc., LandBank, Philippine Health Insurance Corp., and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG).

The SSS OFW Day and Jobs fair is held in cooperation with Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Technology Resource Center, Quezon City Public Employment Service Office, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Interior and Local Government, Kalinga, OFW Family Club, Zonta Club of Quezon City, Center for Overseas Workers, National Executive Movement Association, and Women in Development Foundation, Inc. Administrators Inc.

For further details, call the SSS Corporate Communications Department at 435-6709, or 920-6401 locals 3324 and 3325.

## TCM responds to demand for English, voice courses

IN RESPONSE TO THE HIGH DEMAND FOR ITS short courses that improve the communication and selling skills as well as the personality of business executives and other professionals, The Corporate Mind strengthens its commitment to its market with the new round scheduling of Business Speech Presentations for English/Fluency, Voice on Stage, Seminar Workshop and its other professional development courses, beginning May 15. Prices/Schedules for English/fluency, six-hour/per eight hour session for 10 sessions on the second and fourth weekends of the month, Saturdays through Sundays in English grammar, will be held every 2nd and 4th week of the month, Mondays through Thursdays from 10 to 11 p.m. and every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 6 to 10 p.m. Seminar on Impact, an intensive eight-hour seminar workshop on personality development shall be held every first Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Improving Your Voice and Diction, a six-session course, Mondays through Thursdays from 10 to 11 p.m. The first week of every month and all other Saturdays and Sundays shall be devoted to any of the other 20-hour offerings such as Optimizing Sales Performance, Converting Business Proposals to Cash, Personality Development for Increased Productivity Basic and Advanced Public Speaking. Those interested in other Mega Offers or Package Courses may call Ms. Angel Gonzales, Brigida Costa, Pauig Ely, for more information, call 810-1888, 09178-9152178 or 0917-4832051.

**GENERAL MILLS DONATES TO RED CROSS**

General Mills Philippines, a subsidiary of US company General Mills, donated $25,000 (P1.1 million) to the Philippine National Red Cross for the victims of Typhoon "Reming which ravaged the Bicol area. Shown are Philippine National Red Cross Chairman and CEO Gen. Richard Gordon, General Mills Philippines managing director Jean Pangantihon (left), Jennifer Hastings, manager Jennifer C. Wong, and finance and supply chain director Noel Silvestrini (right). In the Philippines, General Mills markets some of the world's best-loved brands, including Pillsbury, Betty Crocker and Chex, among others. Shaegon Chan, Super Promises for Cereals, Betty Crocker baking products, Bill Hynes, Pop Secret and Progresso Soups.

**ICTEX PROJECT INSPECTION**

Metro Convention and Development Authority (MCDA) President and CEO Rustico L. Reyes (right) inspects the ongoing damaged asphalt overlay of a portion of the Clark Field Perimeter Road in the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) Package 3 (Clark-Tarlac section) caused by heavy downpour over the weekend. Danilo Adajar is SCTEX-SCCA program manager for engineering and construction. Edsa Extension also reported that the damage in the slope protection area minimal. Rustico Tolentino-Head is the general manager Makati-Worldwide, the Japanese contractor in charge of the Makati Central 3, assured SCCA that the damage would not affect the timetable for the completion of the Clark-Tarlac section in August.

## HCCA holds seminar for nursing professionals

HEALTH CARE CORP. OF AMERICA (HCCA) recently held a seminar for chief nurses and supervisors of five private and government hospitals in Baguio City, as part of the company's corporate social responsibility projects in the Philippines.

The educational seminar conducted by HCCA International chief nurse and director of international operations Nimfa Fitz at Hotel Elizabeth's part of HCCA's initiative to give back to the host/nursing community and assist in the country's efforts to train and cultivate world-class, globally-competitive nurses.

According to Joseph Gilbello, HCCA vice president and managing director for Asia-Pacific and Middle East Region, "We signed many Filipino nurses to work in hospitals in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. We have seen that many will return to the Philippines to serve their communities and local hospitals. Regardless of where Filipino nurses will live their professional lives, HCCA will provide supplemental education and training for them."

HCCA is a global organization with operations in the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East, East Asia, Europe, Central America, and Caribbean locations. HCCA International employs the most competent registered nurses from around the world to work with top medical institutions in the United States. The multinational company has built a solid reputation in global healthcare operations and employment of nursing professionals, having supervised more than 400 hospitals on five continents, and matched over 30,000 healthcare professionals with some of the world's most prestigious medical facilities.

HCCA International is a major employer of Filipino nurses. Successful placements are employed in nine of HCCA's 50-State hospitals in the United States. The nurse always has the choice of where s/he works depending on the needs of HCCA's hospitals across the States. The nurses are employed through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

"Since HCCA employs nurses for our operations in the United States, the company is always looking for opportunities to give back to the community, organizations, hospitals, or schools in the areas we come from," explained Fritz.

"We teach the nurses that HCCA will recruit for client hospitals in the States and we also teach the nurses current and new clinical skills," she added.

A 37-year veteran in the international healthcare industry, Fritz taught as associate professor in the schools of nursing of the University of Maryland and Georgetown University. In the clinical affairs of US hospitals, Fritz managed virtually all clinical areas of the hospital, including the nursing departments, the operating rooms, the emergency room, and the departments of radiology, laboratory and respiratory.

As HCCA chief nursing officer, Fritz has created a core competency program that develops essential skills necessary for HCCA's client hospitals.

Besides interviewed in the education and sponsorship programs of HCCA Philippines may call the company at 757-3008 HCCA Philippines is located at 33rd Floor Tower 1 The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

**DOT SUPPORTS AIREC**

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano (2nd from right) shakes the hand of Cebu and Executive Presidential Ex (CEPE) president Leni Kasi shortly after signing a memorandum of agreement supporting preparations for the 1st Asian International Food Trade Expo and Conference (Airec), which will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center from Dec. 6 to 10. Organized by CEPE, the event will enable the Department of Tourism to promote the Philippines to Asian buyers and an estimated 5,000 pre-screened visitors from some 60 countries worldwide. Visiting Chinese and Italy are Hunan International Group chief executive officer and 101 National Association of Realtors president Vincenzo Pirozzolo. Looking on are Durano and executive director Daniel S. Empeso of the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp., the marketing arm of the DOT.

# Marina to keep watch on ships

By Rue T. Chinnedee

THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (Marina) said the fire that scorched downtown at its headquarters last week would not hamper its ability to inspect the ships' safety and to responsibly issue seaworthy.

Marina head Antonio Sanchez said Acting Executive Director Ernesto Abella of the agency had already ordered employees to double-check ships' documentary requirements to ensure that only eligible vessels will be allowed to sail.

"We have to make sure that no one will take advantage of the situation. We will impose the full penal provision of existing laws if found out that [people] are exploiting the situation," Sanchez said.

The agency is expected to bring the same focus to the fire.

It did not set a deadline for completing its work, but said it would not affect the operations of commercial vessels.

The reconstruction process only covers certificates of public convenience (CPC) issued to shipping lines as well as safety certificates, special permits and licenses to cabotage. Marina ruled that it will play safe by ensuring that it was not leaving any high-profile case.

# Wind energy project gets perks

By Russell W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS (BOI) approved the granting of perks to a ₱40.7-billion ($1.87 billion) investment on a 35-megawatt hybrid power project that would run on offshore wind energy in diesel.

BOI data showed that Philippine Hybrid Energy Systems Inc. (Phesi), a unit of American firm SowitchEnergy LLC, plans to put up a power facility on Sitio Pulang Lupa, Oriental Mindoro—one of the poorest provinces in the country.

SowitchEnergy, which has "extensive experience" in the development of financing and operation of energy projects, put up Phesi to build, own and operate ecologically friendly wind power systems that provide reliable electricity supply to small electric grids throughout the Philippines at costs lower than conventional technologies.

Phesi's planned facility in Mindoro would sell its output to the two power distributors on the island, Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Orasco) and Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Omeco).

Omeco caters to 69,000 customers in 421 barangays while Orasco has 46,000 clients in 120 barangays.

The cooperatives currently get the bulk of their electricity requirement from state-owned National Power Corp.'s Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG), which is augmented with deliveries from independent power producers.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, Napocor will privatize its operations in areas covered by SPUG, which are off-grid or are connected to the major power grids.

Phesi's project is expected to supply 25 percent of Mindoro's yearly demand starting 2009.

Also, Phesi intends to sell carbon credits as contributions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, since the project is meant to displace electricity generated by diesel generators that burn diesel and bunker fuel.

The trading of the so-earned carbon credits is part of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) provided for under the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement that legally binds at least 36 industrialized countries to lower targets for the reduction of GHG emissions.

The CDM allows industrialized countries to meet their GHG reduction targets by investing in emission reduction "credits" from projects based in developing countries.

Further, the renewable energy sector is one of the preferred areas of investments under the current Investment Priorities Plan, which gives such projects pioneer status.

The said IPP is proposed to cover incentives of up to six years, duty-free importation of capital equipment and other perks.

## ₱1.87-B hybrid generator to rise in Mindoro

# BFAR to set up 4 new mariculture parks in La Union, Pangasinan

By Amy S. Barros

THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND Aquatic Resources is gearing up four mariculture parks in La Union and Pangasinan in an effort to spread out production to more areas.

On the sidelines of the North Food Convention Harvest launch last week, BFAR Region 1 Director Dario Dumlao Jr. said two of the mariculture parks would be dedicated to fish, and the other two for seaweeds.

"Target for Pangasinan parks to have go production, Region 1 is already a reputable producing region, and this move is to put up mariculture parks for fish and seaweed would enable us to widen more production areas to further increase the country's fisheries supply," said Dumlao Jr.

Dumlao Jr. said the two mariculture parks for fish would be put up as soon as the Department of Interior and Local Government issues the needed environmental compliance certificates.

These would be set up in Rosario, La Union and Sual, Pangasinan.

The other two parks, according to Dumlao Jr., would be in Dasol and Bolinao, both in Pangasinan.

One would be put up this year and the other by the first quarter next year.

"These parks would serve as a sea garden for the region that production would be the nearby seaweeds," he said.

According to Dumlao Jr., there are about 1,000 small producers of seaweeds in the region, where BFAR is encouraging to transfer to the mariculture park.

Region 1 has one mariculture park in Sto. Tomas, La Union, which used to have 36 fishpens. It now has only 11 hapchan.

The drop in the number of fishpens over the years is due to the emergence of new parks and problems in particular to Sto. Tomas, where BFAR is encouraging to transfer to the mariculture park.

"Local governments have the control whether or not they would give out tax incentives. The best that we can do is to negotiate with them and convince them that giving out tax perks can also be beneficial for their municipalities," Dumlao Jr. said.

Other possible incentives, highlighted earlier benefits of locating in mariculture parks.

These include having a community complex for their businesses and access to services of technical groups from state universities and from the department.

Dumlao Jr., however, said that there remained problems, such as market access.

"One of our biggest difficulties is market development. We want to introduce our potential locations to consumers and expand operations to the park. But how can we do that if we can't get them new markets for their products?" Dumlao Jr. said.

He said the problem had prompted the DA to formulate new ways to improve market access and directly link producers to their market.

ALLIANCE TUNA INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of ALLIANCE TUNA INTERNATIONAL, INC. will be held at the Penthouse, Unit Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines on June 26, 2007 at 3:00 in the afternoon.

The AGENDA of the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Certification of service of notice and existence of quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2007 Annual Stockholders' Meeting dated August 4, 2006 and the Special Stockholders' Meeting dated October 26, 2006
4. Management Report to Stockholders for the year 2006;
5. Approval of the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2006;
6. Ratification of all acts of the Board of Directors and Management during the year 2006;
7. Amendment of Article II Sec. 3 & Article III Sec. 1-A of the By-Laws;
8. Election of the Board of Directors for the ensuing term;
9. Election of External Auditors;
10. Such other business as may properly come before it;
11. Adjournment

It is sure you cannot attend the meeting in person and you wish to be represented thereat, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a proxy instrument to the office of the Corporate Secretary, 12/F Unit Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, not later than 5:00pm of June 22, 2007.

Only stockholders of record as of June 11, 2007 shall be entitled to vote at the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting.

ATTY. MA. ERLINDA B. CALALAY
Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel

# Korean firm to build hotel in Subic

A SOUTH KOREAN FIRM IS building a $14-million, 17-story condominium hotel that would be the first high-rise building to rise in the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

SBMA administrator Armand Arreza said he expressed that ET Global Subic Inc. will develop, manage and operate the residential and hotel complex called Subic Angeles Tower.

"ET Global's investment commitment is the fifth biggest among the projects approved in 2006," Arreza said.

He said ET Global's parent unit, ET Construction Co. Ltd., is engaged in real estate development and operation of condominiums, hotels and other related activities and plans to build six condominium buildings in the Freeport zone.

In the same statement, ET global president Hong Suk Kim said the company was partnering with SBMA given its interest to provide high-quality and comfortable units in the market.

Hong said the project reflected the rapid advancements in technology and the growing need for quality housing, hotel rooms and office amenities.

He said Angeles Tower would feature conference rooms that are ideal for formal and semi-formal gatherings, gift shops, a recreation place with spas, massage clinics, swimming pools and sports facilities, while the rest of the building would have the housing units.

Further, Hong said the company was aiming to complete the first two condominium buildings within the next three to four years on a 14,000-sq. m. lot inside the Subic Commercial Light and Industrial Park.

The complex' four condominium buildings will be completed early in the next six to 10 years, he said.

"Our company is dedicated to providing a hassle-free living environment wherein our clients can enjoy all of the benefits of top sale, attractive and inviting habitats," Hong said. "Unlike many other realty companies that are solely concerned with profit generation, our primary objective is to maximize the highest achievable level of customer satisfaction."

The Angeles Tower project would entail 300 employees in its operations, and will expand by two floors by 2010 in five years.

Russell W. Domingo

## Tanduay ... Foreign B3

In a tested market made of the US liquor market, sales of rum grew 62 percent from 1995 to 2005, while the sale of liquor increased by only 7 percent. Brandy and vodka sales grew by 33 percent and 10 percent respectively over the same period.

"Without losing our focus on the brandy thrust, our shelf-assurance will come in the premium drive of our business," Tan said.

Tan said that Tanduay had developed a new advertising program for its new products to seize the young drinkers segment of the market. He, however, did not give details of this program.

Also, to ride on the growing popularity of brandy, Tan said Tanduay had launched the new Bacardeco brandy improving on taste, aroma and packaging.

He also said that Tanduay was optimistic about the vodka category with its Gemini Vodka brand.

In the meantime, Tanduay Holdings' revenue in 2006 was 5 percent lower than the previous year's level at ₱6.9-billion. This was attributed to the lower sales volume of rum and brandy.

Double-digit increases however were posted by gin and vodka. The company said

# The Internet—What's in it for me?

By Leighton Phillips

THE RAPID EXPANSION of the Internet has produced one billion users worldwide. But the people making up the next billion Internet users will be very different from the first—and they will use it very differently too.

Today, the majority of Internet users speak English, have incomes well above the poverty line, use the Internet frequently for entertainment, and have established views of Intellectual Property (IP) licensing. The next billion are likely to be very different on all of these points. What's means the ICT industry, regulators and users as providers should seek the same question the next billion users will ask: "The Net—what's in it for me?"

### Next billion users

Without a clear reason or degree of confidence, the Internet will be valued for regions whose languages do not make it on the net. These include the 600 million people in Southeast Asia and the 900 million people in africa, who are likely to make up a large portion of the next billion Users. The responsibility is for industry leaders—and governments—to devise responsible strategies to help bridge the digital divide, and embrace their benefits.

There are four high-level areas that will affect the New Billion. First is language. Over 50 percent of existing Internet users interact on the net using only 10 languages. However, some of these text languages use the local languages of the New Billion, such as Thai or BEN for an many respects, to the developing world—like Net, is silent.

### The content challenge

Secondly, content and services, as the way people use the net. The majority of users today are in the developed countries, with annual salaries of several tens of thousands of dollars a year. Content that to those potential users in the regions we just mentioned. The chasm (see a striking report on full size the content) described by the World Bank as extreme poverty) i.e. living on less than $2 a day. Which means that the kinds of content that engage people in, for example, New York—articles books sales through Amazon, travel sites, etc.—will have no relevance to a farmer living in the Philippines or Indonesia.

The third issue is that of the cost-effective but properly-rights (IPR) of systems, specifically web-media contents. In some areas in which content from other to multiple languages and to relevant to the rural communities in the emerging markets thanks, for example). However, the majority of this content is developed out of the mature markets, with pricing models driven by those markets.

The fourth and final issue is deployment effort and resources going into the provision of digital content. In some areas Asian governments considerable work-shops, it became obvious that in not one area—apical, Cambodia—has considerable deployment of rich digital content for the core subject matter.

### eKnowledge is HP

The good news is that businesses, authorities and regulators are updating agriculture issues and the emerging opportunities.

For example, a special Digital Nations group met in February 2007 with Silicon Valley leaders to explore how the technology industry, government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can come together to facilitate economic development around the world—and specifically called on "technical content" as one of the most promising areas for investment.

Two years ago, Intel and the Department of Science and Technology and Philippine Commission on Information and Communications Technology made a draft proposal called "eKnowledge Public Domain" (eKPD). The eKPD would find around three pillars to promote eknowledge in developing regions:

- Those centered on the formation of an online public domain or pool, which would be populated by contributions from governments (DMC, agriculture, healthcare, K-12 educational standards-based, city digital content and web sites, in an "IPR free" environment united by participating countries and possibly paid for by all governmental stakeholders. Participating countries would be able to withdraw content as required, especially upon opening up the avenues of content of signal's real impact, as much better over to government, and most importantly—at no cost to the end user in a novel commercial setting.

### Unesco-Intel's pilot project

Using initial base-seed fund funding, a basic pilot was developed to test some of the ideas in one of the most socio-economically challenged locations of the Philippines: Net-ork was the central web access used and used by the community technology (the territory concept). It became clear that to establish and foster free, successful public-private partnerships, service, trusted information, and that a viral competitive element crept in, boosting both interest and quality.

All this is a world away from decision-by incomes, finances, and online banking—but for all those who want to develop for the Next Billion to have to use the Internet in many different ways to those predominant right now. The good thing is: there're finding answers to that "What's in it for me?" question. The answers is plenty.

*Leighton Phillips leads intel's emerging markets program in Asia Pacific. He is based in Singapore and can be contacted at leighton.phillips@intel.com*

*Smart introduces most affordable 3G handset*

SMART COMMUNICATIONS Inc., the country's leading wireless service provider, has brought to the market the cheapest third-generation (3G) handset, the LG KE220, LG Mobile.

Selected by the GSM Association (GSMA) to lead the worldwide "3G For All" campaign announced during the 2007 3GSM World Congress in Barcelona, the LG KE220 is an entry-level 3G phone that can handle basic voice, text communication needs as well as multimedia such as Consumers and services.

The LG KE220 phone kit will sell at only P6,290.

Encased in an elegant black shell, the sleek device is equipped with video call capability. It can also be used for high-speed Internet access using Smart's 3G network either on the phone or connecting it to a PC or a laptop. The LG KE220 internal memory, and expandable memory using a Micro SD card. The device can also be used as an audio and video player that supports the most popular audio and video file formats.

With the LG KE220, subscribers can also access other services like video calling, full-track music downloads, video streaming, video sharing.

Jerome Shimizaki, 3G Business Head, said: "This is a big collector 3G solution for the brand. Offering this product demonstrates our commitment to providing not only affordable 3G services, but also affordable devices to access these services."

# With technology, employees no longer chained to their desks

By Abigail L. Ho

SOME ARE THE DAYS WHEN 60 EMPLOyees to remember why the number of hours he or she spends behind a desk.

With the advent of technology, companies worldwide have been prompted to capitalize on employees' "mobility" to remain profitable.

According to a recent industry survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit and Nokia, industries ranging from financial services to pharmaceuticals now see mobility as a key factor to their success.

Survey respondents said business mobility boosted their competitive edge, enabling them to respond more quickly to customers (36 percent), improve collaboration within the enterprise (27 percent), and work with multiple partners and suppliers (12 percent).

"These findings suggest business mobility leads to revenue gains rather than simply reducing operating costs," the report said.

As a result, survey respondents said that in the next two years, many of them planned to adopt mobile applications for core business activities, including position sensors sensors (41 percent), customer relationship management tools (34 percent), mobile groupware (21 percent) and sales force automation (27 percent).

"Increasingly, workforces on the field are equipped to connect to the resources of the business. No longer a mobility associated activity with exploiting information in the field and bringing it back to the office for processing," the report said.

With companies all over the world increasingly embracing mobility, research firm IDC says converged mobile devices (CMDs) such as smartphones and PDA phones becoming "indispensable tools" for mobile workers.

According to IDC's latest mobile enterprise device usage forecasts, global shipments of mobile devices poised to extend the corporate market would expand at a compounded annual growth rate of 7% percent to reach more than 62 million units by 2011.

Also, IDC said the majority of these shipments would be in key markets for CMDs over the forecast period. IDC said the majority of these Pacific and other regions in the world would also experience a shift towards greater enterprise adoption.

"One of the key drivers for the expected growth in corporate adoption of CMDs lies in the power to use these devices, beyond basic telephony, to access corporate email, the Internet/Intranet, and remotely link to corporate databases," IDC mobile enterprise devices program research analyst Jason Ryan said.

# IBM gives 'green' technology a $1-B push

By Rica T. Chichioco

IBM IS REDIRECTING $1 BILLION OF ITS yearly investment to cold and more products and services that would give IBM and its clients 42 percent savings on energy consumption in their data centers, broadcasting this world's business and public technology infrastructure into "green" facilities.

Called "Project Big Green," IBM's initiative targets corporate data centers where energy consumption and costs can limit their ability to grow. The initiative includes a new global "green team" of more than 850 energy efficiency architects in all its service IBM.

The technology and cost under the program, in large part of 25,000 square foot data center, should be able to achieve 42 percent energy savings.

Based on the energy rate in the US, this savings equate to 7,449 tons of carbon emissions saved per year.

According to a market firm IDC, roughly $18.8B is spent on energy for every dollar of computer hardware. This is expected to increase by 54 percent to $6.71 over the next four years.

"The data center energy crisis is inhibiting our clients' business growth as they seek to access computing power," IBM Global Technology Services senior vice president Mike Daniels said.

"Many data centers have now reached full capacity, limiting a client's ability to grow and make necessary capital investments. Today we are providing clients the IBM solutions they need to drive current fully utilized and energy efficient."

IBM can only note the world's largest commercial technology infrastructure, with more than eight million square feet of data centers in six continents. By using the energy-efficiency initiatives it is offering clients, IBM said it expects to double the computing capacity of its data centers within the next three years without increasing power consumption or its carbon footprint.

Compared to doubling the size of its data centers by building out new space, IBM expects this will help cost savings close to $4 billion for each customer over a five-year.

"Just as IBM helped organizations grapple with new issues around the Internet and Linux, we will again assist clients leverage this new era of energy efficient computing," IBM Systems and Technology Group senior vice president Bill Zeitler said.

"Relief from the energy crisis can't be achieved through incremental improvements. Bold ideas and accountable plans are needed to deal with this issue."

# IT key to rapid growth in financial services sector, says Headstrong

By Rica T. Chichioco

TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES ARE NOT only enabling financial services companies to involve significant cost issues, there are also key factors that contribute to rapid growth, said an expert from Headstrong, a global consultancy firm with about 500 employees in the Philippines.

Senior managing consultant Miguel Belmonte, a specialist in business process reengineering and system solutions for financial institutions, said companies in the financial services industry were investing in information technology solutions to comply with regulatory requirements, and to ensure cost-efficient operations.

But they are now also looking at IT to accelerate growth and penetrate additional customers," said Belmonte, who is among Headstrong's 225 financial services domain experts.

He cited a survey of 200 executives from 50 countries conducted in 2006 by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

The survey showed that 63 percent of chief executive officers and board members consider IT as a key factor in driving revenue growth for their businesses.

Headstrong has domain expertise in capital markets and enterprise IT; business strategy alignment and execution. It operates in seven eight of the world's major 13 investment banks, providing order fulfillment and asset management, private brokerage and securities clearing, equities and fixed income.

"Wealth being invests global financial institutions in refining their business requirements and scheduling a technology strategy to accomplish processes, manage operations and comply with regulatory frameworks," he said. "We combine technology business processes and global delivery innovation to boost overall industry performance."

Headstrong recently signed a multi-million agreement with a major bank, to develop MiFID-compliant solutions for the European capital markets. The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID), aim to take effect in November 2007, seeks to foster more unified European markets with greater convergence in business practices, market structure and regulation in member states.

Headstrong's other development centers are in Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and India. Over 60 percent of the firm's 2006 revenues of $135 million came from the securities industry.

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# Nimble economic body needed

## SyCip pushes for a group that can help economy adapt to changes

SGV & Co. founder Washington SyCip

By Margie Quiroz-Espino

IN THE '70s, WASHINGTON SYCIP devised three instruments to check out the Philippines and invest in the country.

The 73-people accepted the invitation and went around the country to look at its investment sites. They went back to SyCip and told him they wanted to set up a factory in Baguio.

SyCip had a problem—the only processing zone then was in Bataan and the large US semiconductor firm wanted Baguio. They needed to locate in a processing zone to avail of the tax and duty free importation of equipment as production was geared for the export market.

The parents of Philippine business, who founded SGV & Co., the country's largest accounting firm, went to then Trade and Industry Minister Roberto S. Ongpin and presented to him the issue.

"So, problem," Ongpin told SyCip. He would draft a decree for Baguio to be declared a processing zone which then President Ferdinand Marcos would sign the following day.

"You can do that?" SyCip asked, to which Ongpin simply said, "of course ... we're under martial law."

SyCip related the incident during the 40th talking anniversary of the Asian Institute of Management. Alumni Award of Honor ceremonies last Friday to illustrate why he thinks the Philippines needs a "non-political economic body that can respond easily to changes taking place in major countries that affect the Philippines."

If today is the country's largest exporter at $3 billion a year (in fact, it is recently announced it was investing another $1 billion in the country).

SyCip said if the 73 members had happened today, it would have taken Congress years to pass a law that would have created a processing zone in Baguio, in which case, the AIE firm would not have waited and would have gone elsewhere with its investment.

"This is not to say that SyCip is pushing for martial law rule nor a dictatorship. But he pointed out the world is volatile today with economic changes happening everyday and the country needs to be able to respond quickly.

"The changes are so rapid. China exports more in the 10 days here. This killed the textile industry in General Santos. Can you wait for Congress to pass legislation? The will take 10 or 8 years."

SyCip proposes that "an economic group of technocrats, perhaps alumni of the AIM, be formed. The group can draw inside on matters affecting the economy, but is non-political. Later, Congress may "review the group's actions after years."

In his address to AIM alumni and professors, which he called a dialog, he roamed about why "with so many talented people, why we do not have talented unity?"

"If we have unity, we should be ahead of our neighboring countries," he stated.

According to SyCip, what weakens the country is, "we are an isolated nation."

A second factor...and he said some people, including his family, might get mad at him—is, "we have too many lawyers."

"If we settle things with lawyers, it eases their interest in pushing the settlement of issues so they get larger fees," he said.

He also faulted Burma and Taiwan, which followed Japan's path of encouraging engineers instead of lawyers. The Philippines graduates thousands of lawyers every year although it needs more engineers.

A third factor, according to SyCip, is "a premature democracy, where the emphasis is on me, me, me."

As he has done in previous speeches, SyCip cited the "flying tigers" of Asia—South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia—which had an "effective democracy, when they succeeded economically he defines democracy as "one man, one vote and freedom of media."

He said in the economic successes of Asia, first there was economic freedom before political freedom.

In the early '70s, the Philippines had a brief taste of economic freedom.

In 1971, he cited that the country grew by 9.4 percent—the highest growth rate in the country's history. In 1974, growth was 7.2 percent. This, from a growth of 4.2 percent in 1972, the year Martial Law was declared.

"In that time, there was disciplina—managers were home by midnight. But there was overconfidence in the success of the first two years. It's easy economic freedom was exercised because of cronies, some businessmen did not want to go into business."

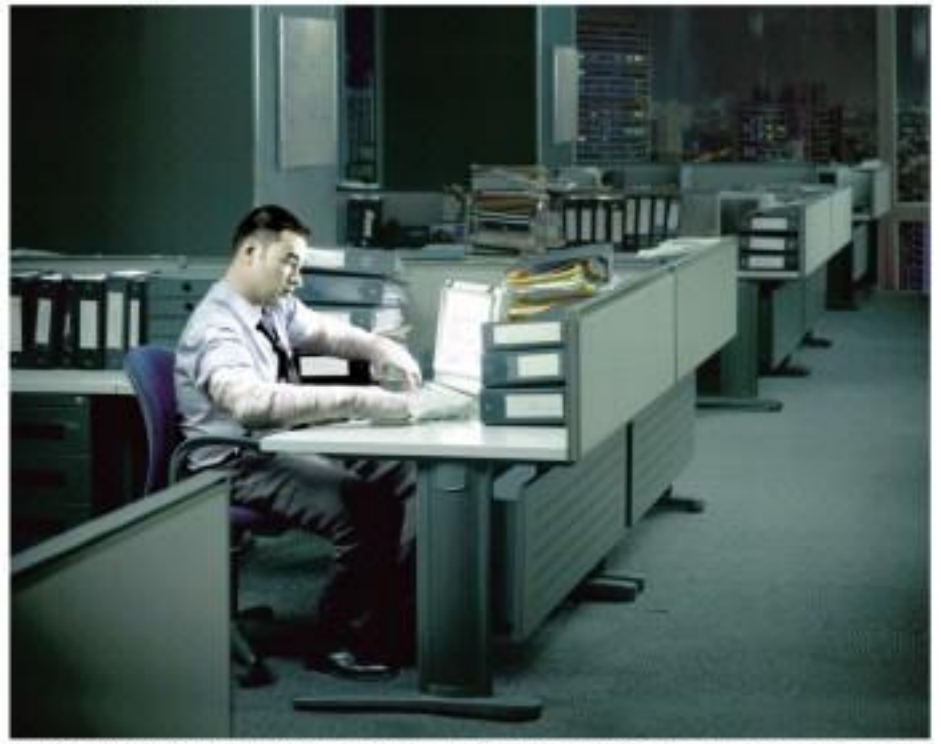
But he said major projects like the North and South Luzon Expressways were finished.

"There were no professional agencies along the expressways who had to be paid off again with the help of lawyers."

In a talk with the Irish prime minister, SyCip learned how Ireland's leaders dealt with their problems: First, they gathered all of Ireland's political parties and made them agree on one economic agenda, but with complete transparency.

Investments flowed into Ireland and the young people who left to work in the UK or the US started coming back with the economic program. As to conflicts in parts of Ireland, the prime minister told SyCip that these would eventually be resolved once economic progress reaches the crime areas.

"If we have political unity here, we will solve the Muslim problem. I don't know whether this is wishful thinking. We should not always look at the American model."



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Always listening, always understanding. PRU LIFE U.K.

# Cory says empowering via microlending, not elections

By Kimand W. Claveiga

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON C. Aquino recently exhorted the private sector to help raise P5 billion within five years in an initiative that she said was a way of shielding the poor "from being exploited yet again by future political exercises."

During the general membership meeting of the Management Association of the Philippines where Ms. Aquino was guest of honor, she talked about microenterprise development as a highly-effective way to go toward empowering the people rather than the recent election that has yet to be wrapped up.

The heroine of Edsa People Power in 1986 lamented the violence that marked the lives of 95 candidates and 50 supporters, unabated vote-buying, the fielding of nuisance candidates and dubious party-list groups, the wholesale rigging of elections in remote areas, and the slow count that "has left the slow winds upon her all forms of cheating."

"To be fair, there have been bright spots," she said, mentioning the victory of Dr. Ed Panlilio as governor of Pampanga, and the "new avenues of hope" that the Kapatiran party opened.

"The inspiring stories spawned by (Panlilio's) campaign...from the flood of volunteers from all sectors flocking to his camp to the spontaneous upsurging of support from common folk who brought their own food to his rallies—remind of our own experiences more than 21 years ago," Ms. Aquino said.

Still, she said such rays of sunshine hardly lit up the traditionally gloomy electoral landscape.

"It behooves us, therefore, to help empower the people at the most basic level...organizing them dignity through decent livelihood—and weaning them from patronage politics," she said.

The former Chief Executive said the way to do this was breaking to microenterprise, which she said she had observed over the past few years to be a highly effective strategy toward empowerment due to the initiative of committed microfinance institutions (MFIs).

"One of the things I have come to realize is that the first step to a 'people-empowered' entrepreneurship strategy is to unlock the potential of the millions of Filipinos who have been cut off from mainstream economic life," she said.

"This is what I call the internal dimension of people power," she added, "beyond the practical importance of putting food on the table, microenterprise bears this equally vital empowering face."

Instead of reinventing the wheel or having a 'stand-alone' project on microfinance, the MAP formed (of governors agreed) that MAP should join the multi-sectoral social consortium which has established the PinoyME movement," Uri Rosario said.

For this, MAP signed a memorandum of understanding with PinoyME, following which MAP's 775 members were encouraged to work on designated projects.

He said MAP members had the option of taking part through fund raising (by buying financial instruments, investing on a project, or allocating funds for lending), provide management capacity building support to microenterprises; provide market opportunities for microenterprise products or; promote corporate initiatives in using microenterprises as part of one's core business.

PinoyME, which was launched January alone at raising P5 billion over the next five years, which would be for lending to some five million households.

"Our 5-5-5 goal is an arbitrary number," Ms Aquino said. "We are targeting five million clients because that number approximates the number of families living below the poverty line."

She explained that P5 billion in capital was the minimum PinoyME would need to augment the current equity and deposit base of the MFIs, in order to reduce by extending to between one and two million borrowers previously.

Further, she said five years was a realistic time frame within which to make the impact that PinoyME was aiming for.

In an interview after the meeting, Ms Aquino said she was convinced of the results of microfinancing "because this is a continuing effort, this is not debt-out."

"I am into this because I have observed (microenterprises and the) progress of NPOs in different parts of the country," she said. "I have touched base with (leaders and borrowers) and I was inspired by what I have seen."

# The 'bitter pill' controversy—big pharma reacts

MY RECENT ARTICLES ON BIG PHARMA—entitled Dino (Big Pharma's Silver Pill, Parts 1 and 2)—appear to have caught the attention of many of my interested readers.

Indeed, a Senior Corporate Affairs manager of Pfizer Philippines, one of the companies that I cited, took the time to respond to me by email. His message reads in part as follows:

"We at Pfizer read with particular interest your two-part column series on Big Pharma's Silver Pill (Part One and Part Two) which appeared in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on March 12 and 19, respectively. We truly appreciate the space you gave briefly explaining the side of the pharmaceutical industry and wish to forward some of our thoughts to you in relation to the topics you have discussed in your column."

The rest of the message notes certain problems of my articles and presents relevant company information.

Let me share my thoughts on three of those comments:

(1) "During the special congressional session on Feb. 20, 2007, which included deliberations to amend the intellectual property code, Pfizer had just one representative present among nongovernment organizations, government officials, public interest groups and other pharmaceutical members of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines."

The intellectual property code is critical. Without a robust and effective patent protection system, we are likely to see a dramatic downturn in the development of new medicines to treat diseases."

This "dramatic downturn" is already happening. According to chemobioPHARMA CEO Jesus Francisco Lavares (Inquirer, March 21, 2003), R&D productivity in Big Pharma has been "going down the toilet."

While R&D outlay increased 23 times over the last 20 years, the number of new drugs turned out by the industry annually has actually declined.

William Haseltine, founder and former CEO of Human Genome Sciences, attributes this low productivity to inefficiencies and sluggishness arising from bigness, and the highly bureaucratic, hierarchical integrated structure and organization of pharmaceutical firms.

The key to productivity is taking place overside: a joint exploration of patent protection proposed by pharmaceutical companies. This leads me to doubt the effectiveness of intellectual property rights protection in ensuring a steady supply of drugs to serve the needs of the increasing numbers of potential users all over the world.

Indeed, the real problem of the industry is not because of the failure of the industry to meet the increasing expectations of their customers.

Because large pharmaceutical firms jealously guard their exclusive rights to their inventions and discoveries, the industry is unable to maximize value by combining those complementary assets with others.

(2) "According to the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, the industry invests up to 20 percent of their revenues back into R&D, making it the highest R&D percentage across all industries including aeronautics, telecommunications and transportation."

We have reasons to believe that all this money is being put to waste because they are invested in an R&D model that has long outlived its usefulness.

This old model has become outmoded in the light of developments—and nonfeasance—of existing new fields in biotechnology and related sciences.

Industry leaders such as Pfizer's Jeffrey Kindler and GSK's Garnier are moving in the general direction of breaking up their huge R&D organizations into smaller, more agile, relatively self-contained research units, each focused on a specialized field of work.

These complementary research teams may be linked together either under the usual corporate structure or as parts of a value network of strategic alliances and partnerships.

The overarching strategies of collaboration and sharing of complementary knowledge resources, the various players in the industry will be able to create much more value for everyone, not the least among which are their customers.

(3) "With well-researched medicines, patients can be assured that they are getting value to the exact same medicine used in the trials that have proven their therapeutic benefits and whose efficacy has been published and confirmed by the medical community over time."

I have noted in my earlier column (Dare II) that the shift towards personalized medicine precludes the need for proving in each group case "one-size-fits-all" drugs and medicines.

Recent development in biotechnology make it possible to identify the unique medical needs of patients through their genetic traits up, and to develop patient-specific cures that are infinitely more effective—and much less costly.

The industry is inexorably moving in new directions. It doesn't seem to make sense to justify traditional practices by defending the old regime.

Instead, drug companies must start paving the way for the new era, both in their laboratories and in their boardrooms, as well as in their press releases and public statements.

*(The article reflects the personal opinions of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an active academic and a knowledge management consultant. He is the author of the book "STRATEGY &The Soul: Why Today's Business Models Fail to Deliver." Feedback at magsay@globelines.com.ph)*

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# Certification body gets recognition from BPS

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TÜV Rheinland Group provides a single source to help a firm gain entry to world markets quickly. Global certification services for North and South America, Europe & Asia: CE, GS, EMC, CE Marking and more.

TÜV Rheinland Philippines Inc. is registered under the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC). The company has certified over 350 firms since 1994, 80 percent of which are multinational corporations.

In order to further support the local industry, TÜV Rheinland Philippines Inc. established its Philippine Laboratory located at Unit 6L Lothario's Hotel, Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City to undertake electrical safety testing. This is also in response to the call of government regulators for more active participation of the private sector in ensuring consumer protection. The company is equipped to test and certify a wide range of products for compliance with national and international requirements. Performing the product supervise at TÜV Rheinland laboratory means that all work is done at the laboratory. All necessary work such as testing, documentation and certification is done at the site.

## Educational corporations

Previous page B3-4

schools established for foreign diplomatic personnel and their dependents, and other foreign temporary residents.

The English proprietary classes that cater to Korean students which have mushroomed in the major urban centers fall squarely under the latter exception.

Regardless of the nature of its corporate structure, educational institutions have to report to two regulatory agencies. To the SEC for corporate and financial reporting purposes, and to DepEd in connection with their compliance with educational policies.

An educational institution organized as a stock corporation is covered by the provisions of the Corporation Code on, among others, the requirement as to its governing body (board of directors), required approvals on certain corporate actions, and declaration of dividends (from unrestricted retained earnings).

Compared to stock corporations, the rules on organization, operation and reporting are less strict for not-for-profit corporations.

The liberality is premised on the theory that nonstock corporations are organized for lofty social objectives, not to gain profit; hence, they do not require strict accounting.

Whether or not their promises to, in the light of prevailing circumstances, deliver is debatable.

Going through the nonstock route, however, is also debatable also.

Unlike a stock corporation, a nonstock educational institution does not have a first hand in the organization of its board of trustees.

The law requires its board to have not less than five, but not more than 15, members. And that the number of the trustees shall be in multiples of five, i.e., five, 10 or 15.

Unless a different format is provided for in the articles of incorporation, the first elected set of trustees have to classify themselves in such a way that the term of office of one-fifth of their number shall expire every year.

When the term of the initial batch of trustees expires, those subsequently elected shall hold office for five years.

If a vacancy occurs before the expiration of the term, the replacement trustee can serve only for the unexpired period.

The third term is exceptional, effective member to public officers such fixed tenures, is aimed at ensuring consistency in the administration of the affairs of the educational institution and, at the same time, encouraging the infusion of fresh faces in the governing board.

(For feedback, please write to: cepalagan@gmail.com, jdv.)


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"When Our Customers Call, They Want Immediate Answers"

-American Express on *PLDT DMS*

High and strict standards of customer service are pillars of the American Express brand according to American Express Bank President Mr. Ian T. Fish. These standards have been decisive for the company since its establishment in the Philippines.

The American Express Bank Philippines branch office in Ayala Avenue, Makati, continued with a proud history. The first thing that you see in its reception is the picture of the very first American Express Co. office in Escolta Manila, circa 1916. The grainy black and white image of eager workers in aprons have elevated ancient carriages of yore from a curiously strong connection to the efficient hubs of the modern American Express, high in the Makati skyline. The quaint, and solid, commitment to the customer satisfaction is palpable.

"The American Express products we offer in the Philippines are aimed at a smaller group of affluent people. It is our aim to give this very special group of people the very best service they deserve," Fish says before adding emphatically, "When our customers' call they want immediate answers."

And that's exactly what they get with the PLDT DMS service which American Express has subscribed to. The formerly hobbit Olivi solution serves the widest customer base in the country. Especially now, as they have opened their 18000 numbers to SMART and Talk n' Text mobile subscribers, making their 18000 service the most accessible hotline, available 24/7. Now, an additional 25 million mobile subscribers can access their toll-free number.

American Express serves a quality market, not one based on volume. "It's not how many thousands or millions of customers we have, but the quality of service we provide them," according to Mr. Fish. Surely, that quality service is always just around the clock hotline. Thanks to PLDT 18000, the toll-free service is available to cardmembers who may need to reach American Express through their SMART mobile phones.

"The best benefit of having PLDT 18000 lines is providing our customers with greater accessibility, especially during the times they need it most," remarks Irma D. Litonjua, Card Marketing Head for American Express. "So far we've been getting positive feedback from our customers, they're very satisfied with the service."

More than anything, it's the personal touch which truly differentiates American Express. Mr. Fish tells us that "American Express has always had a very strong drive to answer the phone correctly. It has to be answered the fastest time possible, and it has to be answered immediately by a human operator, with very minimal machine talk time."

That's our people on duty all day for American Express and they are already mentored by management, about to see enhanced level. The amiable Fish, with typical English dry wit and aplomb continues. "We try to instill a culture in this company: If the phone's ringing, pick it up!"

Even during the height of Milenyo, American Express voice lines operated normally, thanks to the robust and redundant infrastructure of PLDT. With American Express, this is the crucial difference to support its goal of providing "premium service" to its premium cardmembers. And through PLDT's 18000 and other voice services, American Express will continue to raise the bar for customer service.

The American Express 24-hour Customer Service Hotline numbers are 816-8700. PLDT fixed line subscribers can call its toll free number 1-800-10-8161777 from anywhere within the Philippines.

For more information on 18000 and PLDT's voice services, call 137 at 816-8700 or log on to our site at www.pldt.com.ph. For e-mail inquiries, e-mail fixedvoice@pldt.com.ph or log on to www.pldt.com.ph.



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Ian Fish, American Express Bank Philippines, Inc. President



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## Educational corporations

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TODAY FOR MOST of the country's primary and secondary students.

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Thanks to our watchful consultants and belief in education as the most effective route to personal progress, educational institutions have become big business in our country.

Until some enterprising people saw the business potential of schools and colleges, the educational institutions in the country operated as nonstock corporations under the supervision of religious or philanthropic organizations.

The money the schools earned from their operations, after deducting administrative and maintenance costs, was channeled back to the school coffers, not to the pocket of the stockholders.

Now, there's a chance for stockholders who want to maintain the integrity of their educational objectives can go nonstock. If they be-

**Corporate Securities Info**
*Raoul J. Fababrica*

lieve the interests of business and education can mix, they can organize into a stock corporation.

### Restrictions

Stock or nonstock, the law states that no applications for incorporation of an educational institution shall be approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission without the favorable recommendation of the Department of Education.

And rightly so, because as the primary regulator of schools, the DepEd is in the best position to determine whether the proposed corporation and the people behind it are capable of making it the educational task.

Except for those established by religious groups and mission boards, the Constitution restricts the right to own educational institutions to Filipino citizens or corporations where Filipinos own at least 60 percent of the capital stock.

The ownership percentage may be increased by Congress if it believes there is a need to strengthen Filipino participation in the operation and management of educational institutions.

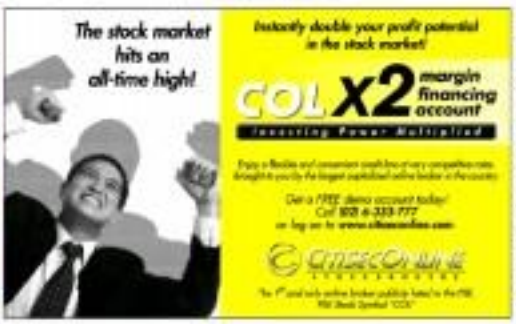
On top of the ownership requirement, the Constitution vests solely on Filipino citizens the right to control and administer the operation of learning centers.

### Exclusivity

As a general rule, no educational institution is allowed to operate for the exclusive benefit of foreigners, or if a group of foreigners compose more than one-third of its student population.

The restriction does not apply, however, to

(BUSINESS, B3)

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# Pinoy artist's work in 'Meet the Robinsons' is a scream

Fil-Am artist Joe Mateo not only helped conceive the riotous pet T-Rex dinosaur in the new Disney animated feature, but also voiced it

By Dexter B. Macilo
Correspondent

DISNEY'S NEW ANIMATED movie "Meet the Robinsons" is big in every way. Big cast, big-name voices, and big ideas all throughout.

But perhaps none is bigger than the biggest character in the movie, Tiny the Robinsons' T-Rex pet. Tiny is hard-to-miss—quite obvious, in fact—Tiny is sure to steal the scene in our cinemas and elicit laughter once he speaks.

The voice is Filipino-American Joe Mateo's. A Fine Arts Advertising graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, Mateo also co-wrote the script and did storyboard work for the movie, which is based on the book "A Day with Wilbur Robinson" by William Joyce.

Already hooked in Lil' Mateo said it was his wife, a former classmate in UST and already working for Disney's Art Classics Department at the time, who informed him of a job opening in the studio.

"It was an opportunity," Mateo said, who nevertheless has done artworks for such beloved Disney movies as "Pocahontas," "Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Brother Bear."

In the same way that Mateo's creativity landed him a obvious job in Disney, Lewis (voice: Wes), the main character of "Meet the Robinsons," gets the most going for the little-but-animated inventor because of his inventiveness and creativity.

Left in an orphanage by his mother when he was still a baby, Lewis grows up to be a very smart kid and an inventor to boot.

Sadly, however, not knowing really his mother gave him up, Lewis is left with a hollow feeling, believing to be reunited with her so they can become a family again. Lewis invents the memory scanner from a couple of household items put together.

With Lewis' plan seemingly foolproof, in comes the Bowler Hat Guy who steals the memory scanner. Voiced by "Meet the Robinsons" director Steve Anderson, the Bowler Hat Guy is none the former and possibly the

PHOTO C4

LEWIS discovers how the memory scanner works.

LEWIS gives Uncle Art Robinson a high five.

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# Pinoy artist's work . . .

from page C1

wrote when here is.

**Back to the future**

In space Lewis returns to the orphanage, where a teenage boy about his age appears out of nowhere. Introducing himself as Wilbur Robinson ("Wesley" to parents), he takes the young inventor on a ride in a space ship/time machine and brings him 30 years into the future where Lewis meets the Robinson.

Although there are other animated movies about boy geniuses made before, "Meet the Robinsons" offers something different. Smart, engaging voice and unexpected wild story twist and turns, "Robinsons" takes a peek into what could or couldn't have been based on the fantastic inventor today. And while full-arm control is awaited, Lewis assures that a lot can be learned from them.

Meets advises anyone who wish to succeed in life to just "give something you can."

Other big name voices in the movie include Tom Selleck, Angela Bassett, Adam West and Laurie Metcalf.

"Meet the Robinsons" opens in theaters tomorrow on Aug 8.

E-mail the author at dcmedina@yahoo.com

LEWIS tries his invention. The movie's colorful characters (below), including Tiny who kidnaps Tuba pot of the Robinsons household

BOWLER Hat Guy, seizes the bar, members the Robinsons' household.

COLORFUL but scarce in the movie


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## Gantimpala holds auditions

GAWAD NG PAGKILALA THEATER Foundation is holding a general auditions for actors on June 11, 4-8 p.m., at the Rehearsal Hall, Open Air Auditorium Building, Luneta, Manila.

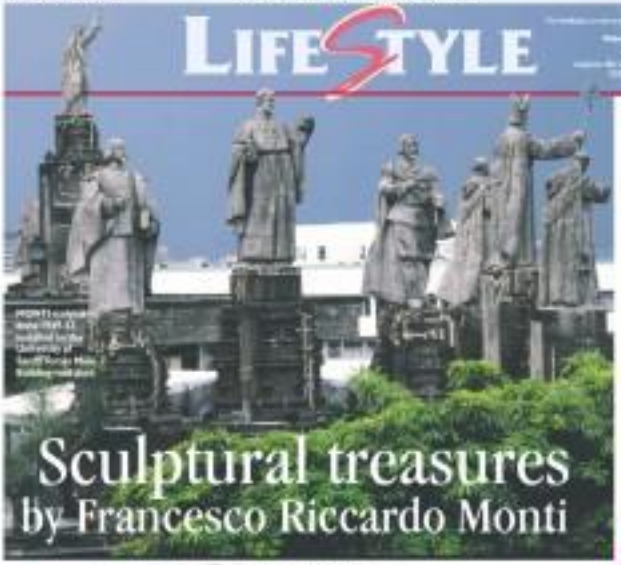
The audition is open to professional and aspiring actors and actresses. Bring a resume and 2" x 2" photograph as video. Call GAWAD for further details.

Gantimpala Theater, formerly known as Bahaging Gantimpala, is one of the energetic dramatic outfits/companies of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Its founding president and artistic director is Tony G. Rapsin.

For its 30th season this year, Gantimpala is staging "Batjanan" by Rodolfo Rapsa, "Tahanan" by Antonio P. Estrella, "Kamong Hirap ng Pobre Huh" by Bienvenido Marquez Jr. and "Kumbira" by Tata Pedro.

Call 5254161, 5254162, 5250101, or 0910-4321014.

LIFESTYLE



# Sculptural treasures by Francesco Riccardo Monti

The Italian sculptor's work, although rooted in classicism, was sensitively attuned to the times

FAÇADE of Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City, concrete cast in silver finish in 1954

## Pride Of Place

Augusto Villalon

IT LITERALLY TOOK SELVana Ameilloti Diaz years of determined search to piece together the life story and artistic legacy of her compatriot, Italian sculptor Francesco Riccardo Monti, who left his native Civitacosa and a world-awarded career in 1925, journeyed through San Remo, Nice, and New York City, before ending his wandering a year later in Manila, where he permanently stayed until his death in 1956.

Together with Mrs. Victoria Soriano, a history of art professor at the University of the Philippines, Ona embarked on intensive research on Monti's work, tracking down extant examples of his sculptures or verifying others attributed to him, often relying on oral accounts from relatives of artists and assistants who worked directly with him.

Diaz and Soriano extensively documented information and carefully studied archival material to arrive at conclusive proof of authorship, a primary concern for any art historical study, especially for a pioneering study on a relatively unknown Italian sculptor whose entire body of work was in the Philippines.

The significant outcome of their task was publicly presented in a series of exhibitions held at the University of Santo Tomas and University of the Philippines in Baño City and in the research concluded Metropolitan Museum exhibition.

To accompany the exhibition series, Soriano authored an authoritative monograph on Francesco Riccardo Monti, from where most of the information below is derived.

Monti made the Philippines his home in 1918, surviving during the halcyon days of the American colonial period when major building and infrastructure projects were in their peak. For the next 38 years, he joined forces with local architects and sculptors on major projects, riches commissioned by the government or by private individuals.

His major architectural collaborations were with Juan Arellano but among other projects, the Metropolitan Theater in Manila and the Iloilo City Municipal Hall, now the Iloilo City museum.

He also worked with the architect Pablo Antonino, Juan National Artist, for the Administration Building of Far Eastern University and other historic structures.

Monti also collaborated with architect José Enriquez, producing a collection of sculptures for the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City and other religious projects.

His most public collaboration, however, was with Gerardo de Leon, founder of the Watercolor Person, a company that still exists in Manila. Its atelier cast and produced most of Monti's works in concrete, and to where a significant collection of his works is archived.

### From adobe to concrete

Spanish colonial architecture in the Philippines is characterized by the use of Philippine adobe (volcanic tuff), lime and wood. Reinforced concrete, a technology developed in the late 19th century, was the construction material of the American colonial regime.

Reinforced concrete, a versatile material that lends itself to casting and molding, was not only used for construction but also for ornamentation since decorative elements could easily be cast from concrete. Classical column capitals and bases, statuary and sculptures usually placed on the pediment (triangular area above the façade colonnade), and molding no longer had to be structurally hand-carved.

It was only a matter of time before sculptors discovered that their works could be cast in concrete, and Monti adapted to the new medium. Most of Monti's grand and monumental sculptures were cast in concrete.

Unknown to many Filipinos, sculptures by Monti are part of important landmarks and structures that are taken for granted in places Manila and other Philippine cities. Like many public architectural sculptures from the pre-World War II years, little is known about the sculptures or the identities of their makers despite the de-

2 out of 3 Filipinos are proficient in English.

Let's make it 3 out of 3.

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WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

The Pinoy Dance Academy grad sings songs from his favorite album entitled Chad

CHAD PERALTA

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# Alcuaz holds 75th birthday show

"UNTITLED"

FEDERICO AGUILAR ALCUAZ MARKS HIS 75th birthday with a major exhibit of his works in Galerie Joaquin Mate.

The show will feature pieces from the collection of the artist himself and that of his family, several of which were sourced from Del Monte.

"Federico Aguilar Alcuaz" will open on his birthday on June 6, 7 p.m., and will run until June 20. It will showcase 68 paintings done in the 1950s '90s.

The exhibit includes some of the abstract works and "collages" the artist has come to be known for in numerous international exhibitions.

It also includes several tapestries he did in Brno, Czechoslovakia, in the 1980s; panoramic landscapes and cityscapes; nudes; self portraits; sketches and drawings.

Alcuaz's works are included in the collections of some 20 museums and major cultural institutions in the world such as the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid, Spain; the Contemporary Art of Madrid; Old Fordham Thelemites Museum of London; Museum of Modern Art of Warsaw; Museum of Modern Art of Krakow; and Philips Collection of Museums of the Netherlands.

In his 50-year career, Alcuaz has exhibited in Spain, Portugal, Singapore, the United States, Germany and Poland.

Alcuaz's abstract pieces were auctioned at the Sotheby's auction of Southeast Asian paintings on April 29.

"Still Life" (21.5" x 28.75," oil on canvas), commanded a final price of $$13,200 (P660,200), or almost twice the maximum estimate of $$7,000.

Two abstract art pieces were also sold at the Christie's auction in Hong Kong on May 27.

Galeria Joaquin is at 371 F Guevarra St., cor. Monterrosa Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 7250458 or 7259515; visit www.galeriajoaquin.com.

"REENCUENTRO" I

"UNTITLED"

## Visual Arts

### Sylaco returns to Penguin

SYLACO WILL RETURN TO THE Penguin Café Gallery (Benavidez Street, Makati, Manila) for the first time in 10 years through his multimedia exhibit "Anchor of Bad Faith," which opens on June 7. Sylaco, self-taught performance artist featuring an all-star cast of poets, musicians and spoken word artists. It was in Penguin where Sylaco exhibited his monochromatic works in the 1980s and where he led the DJ rock art underground. The opening night will feature poets, musicians and performances such as Jim Salabra, Marina Pagsanjan and Shaken Augusto Kibot drama ensemble, Igat El Bayat, Light Bevoni, Mitzi Bolinao, Emmy Estrada, Reggie Santos, Don Quijote, among others. The event will be hosted by Vin Tayag and produced by Jose Mario Sylaco. Visit www.sylacomyspace.com.

### Legaspi, RP costumes from Netherlands at Ayala

BY RAYMUND Legaspi

"FAT"

### Revabel at Liliha-Dora

Former journalist and newspaperist Gaspar Pangilinan will present "Color Movements," an exhibition of watercolor landscapes of Southeast Asia. Exhibit opens on June 5 and runs until July 30 at Liliha-Dora (7-11 J. Francisco St., Kiwa in Lipa). (EC) Call 0356-0227.

### Garcias at Ricco Rocco

"HEADSTART"

### Gonzales at West

Bernie Mallorca Gonzales presents "Trapped by Light," at West Gallery (4A, Bldg. J, Old Magsaysay Rd., Mandaluyong). The series consists of works depicting characters in which people may be "trapped" by everyday circumstances. Gonzales, a Bohol-born Manila-based sculptor from the University of the Philippines, received the artist in residence grant from the Vermont Studio Center in the United States in 2003. Call 8914784.

### Padilla at Crucible

Crucible Gallery presents Vincent Padilla's "Evolution." The title of the exhibit comes from the French word *vaillant*, meaning "to forge." Presidential Bldg. Ayala in the Intramuros house complex but has a low level. Exhibit will run June 5-11, at the Crucible Gallery (4F Bldg. J, Old Magsaysay, Mandaluyong). Call 5316504.



"FLY High"

Compiled by Mariviles C. Cabrera, Contributor

# Interiors

By Constantino C. Tejero

MARTIN CELARIA IS ONE OF OUR young artists whose art forms us reason to marvel that the images he exhibits look similar from exhibit to exhibit. It is precisely the banality of the subjects that fascinates, and they are effortlessly presented, too.

That artist has chosen to portray the chaos of urban living, particularly in the depressed areas and smelter quarters of the city living somewhere in Barbaras, he is seeing it every day.

A Fine Arts graduate from University of Santo Tomas, he went on a fellowship at the Wimmen Art Center two years ago. But, of course, he couldn't totally leave his part of the city, because when he returned he again painted it expertly what it was when he left it.

This chaotic world he appropriately confers in twenty landscapes à la Van Gogh, with bursting movements of it. Methodologic and lumps of naked flesh à la Lucian Freud. It is a zone in more monochromes, chiefly a slimy brown, a lethal green, a bitter blue.

Commentated in imagery but no less persuasive in composition, Celaria's works are fluid before our eyes in Celaria's fourth solo exhibit "Interiorismo," 15 pieces in all on canvas, until June 10 in Blanc at 3E Corner Room, 339 U.N. de la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati.

### Gritty views

An almost film noir-like tone pervades the artist's oeuvre in the same vein as exhibit depicting gritty views of the immediate environs surrounding his tenement studio in Bridgeport, titled "Pagbabayan," which could mean either "arraignment," "settlement" or "relief," it nevertheless pictured a world in total disarray.

One piece depicts the goings-on on the street with various figures in motion, where beasts and humans interact stalling dogs, demon-masked prostitutes, drug addicts, voyeurs, retailers, beggars, children playing jeks.

To accompany this vision of ugly humanity, there was a magnificent portrait of a mother and child in profile against the rear of a tree with a sleeping figure on the seat behind them, rendered in a monochromatic ochreous tone.

In the present exhibit, the artist's coming eyes have shifted from the seamier into the interiors of his house, to his barn-like studio, as it were. We can see that in this metaphoric intensity he has just moved from one chaos to another.

Why, this abode is as disorderly as, if not more so than, the street outside. While there are no hearing bodies here, it is still a topsy-turvy world.

### Riotous forms

Amid this chaotic imagery however sparkles the artist's essential humanism, manifested in the homoeroticism and religious sentiments. Such pieces must be seen as still life, architectural detailing, or a kind of self-portrait.

(We wonder, though, whether this is really the case the beasts in it, or the artist has just disengaged it in his mind. We must add that before mounting the exhibit he came to the gallery and measured its walls and floor area so he could make large, scale paintings fit to size and thus give gallery goers the impression of close proximity.)

Each piece displays the artist's subtle orientation, in which the picture plane is drained of all colors until it gives the impression of monochromic (either brown or gray with tinges of primary and secondary colors). The monochromatic effect somehow unifies the 6-piece forms.

Celaria has not only a sharp realist eye for detail but also a poetic mind born with visual metaphors. An example is the skinny black dog that appears from piece to piece like a leitmotiv, whatever it symbolizes. It may be an unconscious mind but his presence adds to that humanness.

"HAP TONGA"

"CHAYSOM Kuoto Stong"

"HOLALALAHAHA"

### Artistic soul

"Ang Sepanyol" is a top view of the entrance to the dwelling, with a rainbow arch hanging on the wall and the dog eating on top of the stairs. Considering the title, this must be Celaria's domestic version of Calvary.

"Daanyan Banon Stong" shows a sala, linoleum-covered flooring, a door opening to another room, and the posterior of the dog on the stairway. Considering the title (banon-stong) who's on a spell against fire.

"Mga Alalahanin" depicts the artist's studio: curtains, ladder, canvas board and boxes, nails, sticks and boxes, and the dog sleeping on the floor. As hinted by the title, somewhere in this workplace are certain reminders of things to do, but one wonders how anybody could do anything in the pandemic.

"May Ayaga" has an emaciated youth in the remarkable role twisting to classical music, in this case Francisco Santiago's "Mahalang Awag." This is a portrait of the artistic artist, who would go hungry as long as he could buy an album of his favorite music, or book for that matter.

Here the dog is something itself. Almost unnoticed is a gray bird perching on a shelf just below a certain Christ-figure hanging on the wall... an funny an image of the carved of famous Christ-like story.

### Dark portrait

Actually this menu imagery had been prefigured in last year's exhibit, in which one piece depicts a dilapidated sala where a young man is slumped on an antique sofa, over his right coffee, while broken doors and windows reveal the dismal outside and a pair of guitars on the floor.

The latter was also a dark portrait of a dozen masked men in a cramped room, a bundle of naked flesh lumped on a hanging chair, presumably trying to get out, and another pulling the air with cigarette smoke after a hot night of drinking spree.

Another piece shown what is presumably the artist's studio, a rounded of still-lifes in disarray. There's a cabinet topped with a component, books-cluttering shelves, dirty clothes hanging on a chair's back, and screens, paintings cluttering one wall with a reproduction of "Starry Starry Night" as centerpiece, and a copy of a Van Gogh self-portrait on the other.

Every exhibit of Celaria demonstrates that, like Van Gogh surrounded by insane asylums, he has retained his humanity and sensitivity to artists in a world of deadening reality.

# Sculptural treasures by Francesco Riccardo Monti From page B1

"EMPIRE Dance" on the exterior of the Metropolitan Theater in Manila, executed in concrete in 1931.

their character these figures contribute to the special character of a place or building.

Monti worked in an era when sculpture was integrated into architectural design, more often than not to introduce a monumental quality to facades, or even to provide delicate texture to an interior wall.

Today we still see Monti statues in front of public buildings or plazas. His relief work decorates many exterior and interior walls in unappreciated heritage buildings.

Some of his most dramatic works that contain in practically their original state are the collection atop the Main Building of UST, where he taught sculpture in that Pontifical University's School of Fine Arts for several years.

Monti's collaboration with Architect established his practice and earned his reputation in this country. As supervising architect to the Bureau of Public Works, Arellano provided Monti opportunities to work in major and important government projects.

### Integral to architecture

Monti's work went beyond simply embellishing government buildings in Manila, provincial capitols, city and municipal halls. His sculptures on or

"MAKISIG" in the lobby of the Philippine Veterans Bank building on Roxas Boulevard.

"MAKISIG" in the lobby of the Philippine Veterans Bank building on Roxas Boulevard.

dan the façade or interior walls were a fundamental part of the architectural character of the structure.

Most significant in Monti's contribution to the Metropolitan Theater in Manila, where his sculpture appears in the façade. His freestanding sculptures and friezes are also integral to the interior architecture.

After World War II, the growing art market in Manila was more open to incorporating sculpture in the planning of interior and exterior spaces. His client base expanded to include schools, theaters and private commissions.

Showing a keen interest in Philippine culture and history, Monti later pursued related motifs and elements in his design concepts, subsidiary lobby and allegorical reliefs executed in the bas-relief panels installed in the main lobby of the PEU administration building.

His style continued to reflect his strong classical grounding. However, in keeping with the times and more "modern" architecture, modernist qualities made their appearance in his work.

His work, although rooted in classicism, was sensitively attuned to the times as seen in the simplified, stylized Art Deco forms that influenced his sculptures as executed in the Metropolitan Theater, Insular Life and Quezon Memorial Circle.

Some of Monti's public sculptures still stand today for outstanding pair of figures of a woman and a rainbow, is located in Bacolod City and at the Museum of Natural History in Quezon City.

Much of his public work has either been defaced or simply ruined away.

The documentation work by Silvana Dino and Ma. Victoria Herrera has brought out an extensive Philippine literature our countrymen should take more notice of.

*Feedback is welcome at pride.place@gmail.com*

## *Villalon's book to be launched in Paris*

ARGUETO Villalon, former member of the executive committee of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (Icomos) and chair of Icomos Philippines Committee, will be launching his book, "Living Landscapes and Cultural Landmarks," published by AsiaNet Asia, at the Elysees Palace des Delegues on June 6.

Villalon represented the Philippines in the Unesco World Heritage Committee from 1991-2003. He was responsible for the preparation of all Philippine nominations (Icomos) to properties included in the World Heritage List, including two natural properties, Tubbataha Reef National Park and Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, and cultural properties such as the Baroque Churches of the Philippines and Historic City of Vigan, and mixed property, the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras.

"CROSSROAD"

"FORMin Space" 6

"RED Earth"

"THE FIRE"

"FORMin Space" 1

"BETWEEN Spaces"

In this his latest foray at experimentation, Piedra's aesthetic markedly evolves as his canvas expands to include metal surfaces. What emerges is a compelling series of images born of fire and metal

"HEAT"

RAUL PIEDRA

# Adventures in texture

By Jahnathon Liburias Rondina
Contributor

FOR ANYONE, A JULIEN UNEXPECTED break with secondary can be a harrowing yet spiritual experience. For noted Raul Piedra, that experience came in the midst of a particularly frustrated period last two years.

A rare man whose was academy and a commissioned quartz was due, leaving him exhausted and, quite literally, bewildered. What he suddenly discovered as arduous turned out to be a stress-induced coronary thrombosis that put him in intensive care for one week.

It might have been a mild heart attack, but its impact was no less profound for Piedra, who took the experience as an invitation for retreat and reassessing introspection.

### Richly textured life

After Piedra is likely to find in his soul-searching is a life so fruitfully lived and as richly textured as his paintings.

Born in 1951 in San Fernando, Pampanga, and raised in Kuala Manila, he found his affinity calling after winning a school art competition. He later pursued art studies at Philippine Women's University.

Those long, dark days of mental low saw Piedra returning to Pampanga, where he spent his early years as a struggling artist. Like many of his contemporaries, Piedra sold commercial folk art, drawings of fish on paper that was local market table for his growing family.

In 1994, he was awarded a grant from the Govan Art Council of Melbourne, a career-changing opportunity which allowed him to work in Australia and New Zealand, where, faced with various competitions, he learned to strengthen his artistic resolve.

This determination soured him a good reputation in New Zealand, where, despite being a foreigner, he was considered as one the country's most notable emerging artists.

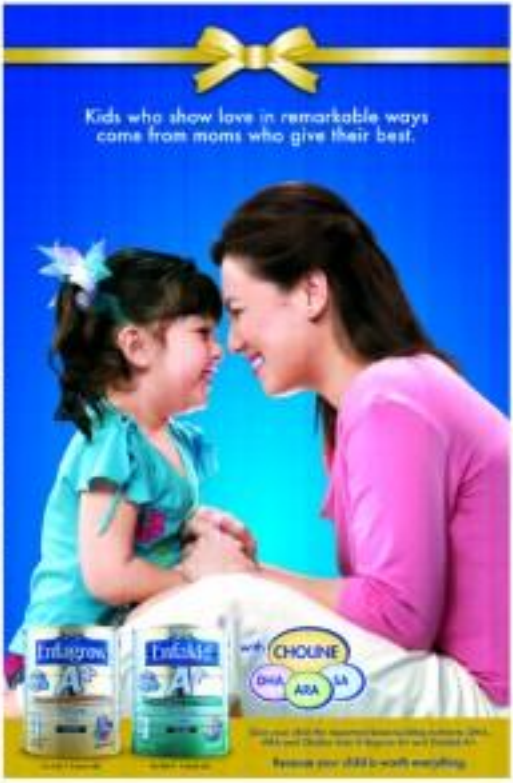
Today Piedra, 56, is an esteemed artist best known for his stylized abstraction in mixed media. His works, a favorite among interior designers and architects, now welcome guests to posh hotels in the Philippines and abroad, and adorn the walls of popular establishments and industrial spaces as well as those in the homes of various art collectors.

While his last exhibit, "Gentle Winds," at The Front, Gallery, Gallery, staged post-exhibition, showcased a subdued, contemplative Piedra, in "Embossed," his latest one-man show at Artwalk's Gallery 8 in Rockwell, the artist aims to mark yet another career milestone by presenting a series of 14 paintings done in his signature textured style combined with promising new experimentations in mixed media.

### Earth's dynamic

The earth and its myriad surfaces and landscapes have long fascinated Piedra, who claims to sense literally anyone's work. "True, he defines his many travels in and outside of the Philippines as "adventures in texture," many experiences that allow him to investigate nuances in the look, feel, and composition of different terrains, including rock formations and acreage, atomic, mud consistency in its pebbles, soil quality in different altitudes, and sand consistency in different beaches.

He then mirrors these topographic references in his canvases by using a unique mixture of paint and industrial materials, acrylic. Piedra's




# Hyundai Earns Largest Opinion Improvement

AutoPacific, an automotive consulting firm, reported Hyundai had the largest opinion improvement among nine manufacturers in its initial wave of Image and Consideration Tracking Research.

AutoPacific analysts noted, "The surprise for not so surprising) winner of the most improved manufacturer was Hyundai Motor Corporation. Comments surrounding the performance of Hyundai gave Hyundai credit for substantially improved styling, newly-found high durability/quality/reliability, a strong value message and a great warranty program. Positive comments outweighed negative comments by about four to one."

Nine manufacturers were evaluated including, General Motors, Toyota, Ford Motor, Chrysler Group, Nissan, Honda, Hyundai, VW, and BMW. 1,254 panelists responded to an Internet survey concerning their opinion of Automakers in the USA. The key question in the survey was whether the respondent's opinion of a manufacturer had changed since this time last year. Over 5,000 verbatim comments were collected in relation to opinion and attitude related factors as pieces of a manufacturer's image.

"In 2006, JD Power and Associates ranked Hyundai as the highest cost-premium nameplate in its Initial Quality Study and BusinessWeek named as a top '100 Global Brand for 2006,' said John Krafcik, vice president of Strategic Planning and Product Development, Hyundai Motor America. "AutoPacific's report that Hyundai now has the largest opinion improvement over nine competing manufacturers is another example of how Hyundai is continuing to improve brand image through its commitment to quality and value."

# Diverse views on limited canvas

"THE LONG Walk," by Parker Enciso

"STREETS of Fire," by Alfrin Villareal

"MAG sa Tingin M'yo," by Aimee Baloo

THE EXHIBIT "Art" III Oil runs until June 9 in Ust' Gallery, 2/L, Antonino Boulevard, Bonifacio Global City. It features the works of Aimee Baloo, Parker Enciso, Ben Tulfonghari and Alfrin Villareal.

With nothing in common but 36"x48" canvases, the artists (can) move us to highly eye-catching diversity.

Art enthusiasts will certainly be drawn to the 3D, layered pieces that is quasi-art without its (or feminism). Baloo's work marked by its tense colors and tortured strokes that evoke visceral, sympathetic pain. Enciso's character in a dreamlike and disarming state; and Tulfonghari's merging of the organic with the synthetic.

Call 908.3783.

"MEKA-ic (Stitch-of-Work)," by Ben Tulfonghari

# Environment in environmental art

By Sid Gomez Hildawa
Correspondent

FOR A MONTH NOW, THE FRONT lawn of the Cultural Center of the Philippines along Roxas Boulevard has been the venue for an environmental art piece, "Ringed: A Forest Oasis," by Leo Isaiah Laguna, based artist-lawyer.

The triennial art project was launched this Big Earth Day on April 22, with ceremonies that involved dancers and artists performing art-for-and-around-the-earth.

The adjective environmental bears closer examination here, as it operates in various levels and could serve as key toward a deeper appreciation of this public art project: art about, about and as environment.

### Art from the environment

First, this artwork's sprawling arrays are clusters of open land consist of some 10,000 **angul pieces** collected from the premises of Antero and Quezon.

As it turns out, illegal logging in any secretary is entered out not only by large-scale logging commissioners but, more disturbingly, also by individual residents in dire need of day-to-day subsistence. Compared to rampaging trunks that are easy to spot and apprehend, individual pieces can easily be spirited away like fine sand filtering through a sieve.

After a tree is felled, a hole is bored at one of its ends so that the lumber may be pulled with a rope (usually by carabao) out of the forest into a clearing. This end part with the hole, called *angul*, is then sawn off and discarded for charcoal. Antero's artistic intervention involves the sourcing of these *angul* pieces by utilizing them as materials for art.

### Art about the environment

Aside from sourcing its materials from the environment, "Ringed" is also about the environment, particularly about our personal responsibility in the continuing devastation of forests. From a distance, the installation piece can look like a graveyard, and the subtitle, "A Forest Oasis," confirms this perception.

Looking closely, one will notice that the individual pieces are connected to one another by rod nylon ropes, perhaps alluding to the way the logs were pulled out of the forest, but more importantly suggesting diverse elements in an ecosystem are interconnected like a complex web.

By directing our attention to the plight of our forests, "Ringed" is able to move Roden Suzara for providing the raw materials for this art project.

'Angul' offers a particular experience of outdoor space much more than a two-dimensional painting or even a three-dimensional sculpture could

### Art as environment

Finally, "Ringed" is also an environment in itself, that is, it offers a particular experience of outdoor space much more than a two-dimensional painting or even a three-dimensional sculpture could. Instead of merely being viewed as some place, the piece engages us inside of the work asserts itself as a location and a place.

The CCP front lawn, which used to be a void taken for granted by daily commuters and passers-by, has been transformed into a "presence," something that cannot be ignored as it heightens the drama of traversing the busy intersection of Roxas Boulevard and F. Domingo Street (formerly Vito Cruz).

SCULPTOR Jaypee's installation is sprawled across a section of the CCP Complex and consists of 10,000 pieces of angul, the tip of felled trees suggestive of Antero's and Quezon

If in previous instances visitors would have their picture taken with the CCP main building as backdrop, this time they could have "Ringed" as the site of their picnic-ish. The resulting photographs and countless other images taken by many others become the documentation wherein this ephemeral art piece would continue to exist, that is, in the environment of memory and imagination.

"Ringed" will be dismantled beginning June 5. This physical act may rank possible with the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Shorebank Foundation, and artist-friends Antero Orline and Fil dela Cruz. Collaborating artists include Ben Maestro and Cherry Baca.


THE EARLY STAGES OF PARENTING

## It's all about Stimulation

When it comes to parenting, providing the very best for your child is of the foremost concern. But there are a thousand and one ways of going about providing and deciding what is right for your baby. Most people consider going hand-in-hand with providing your child the right 'climate' for proper brain development.

Research shows that using music plays an important role in baby's brain development during your child's earliest stages. Not to overlooking the fact that you can make sure you are giving your baby a complete support that will encompass the foundation for his future development. And there's no better time to start than at the beginning.

THE BENEFITS OF MUSIC

Countless studies with your baby is possible the constant presence of your caregivers. In fact, studies show that babies who are exposed to music from the moment they are born, or even before, have a more developed brain. Complex musical structures can help stimulate a child's brain development. Many parents-to-be during their pregnancy have been known to help develop areas in your baby's brain necessary for math and spatial reasoning.

Personal skills, a number form of communication how they learn from a caregiver bond between you and your child. Talking, singing, reading stories through the baby's developing brain activity and stimulates areas that are only responsible for how they will respond later on in their life and develop more brain connections and pathways to the world outside the womb.

As the stage is a also important for stories to learn proper narrative which includes a due role in social-learning, memory skills, and vocabulary.

THE BRAIN FOOD FRENZY

Several areas of the brain are used to process music. Some of these areas are also responsible for processing learning, memory and language. Babies start their early life with the ability to respond to music and movement and even before birth – and show incredible receptive/verbal capacities. As the ages, however, this ability begins to deteriorate unless the parent may be self-conditioned spaces for the learning to occur around them, and nurturing the core muscle to practice making sounds.

When your child does begin to develop the ability to respond to environmental cues such as sound, touch and other stimuli, they develop the neural development. Many studies can be interested in further through age appropriate toys that can soft and safe to play with.

Children at this age should also be given proper exercise. At least a child's brain is 75% to approximately adulthood weight, so he needs to be given a clear rich volume building experiences such as DVD and CD or physically positive books, and Crocodile as learning at Montessori SUBIC levels where can be found in Bonifacio.

BUILDING STRONGER PRESCHOOL

Where your child is only enough to be against words and have advantage, it would be a good start to them to maintain. Parents have their hanging during conditions for the language development. At the same time, they can choose positive ways to help your child's development. Many parents are working parents and office relationships. Long-term benefits of this can include higher scores on tests early in school, increased involvement in the communication between the area most developmental, better reading scores and enhanced learning skills.

When your child can be on age where he can easily move around on his own, and he may be able to play music, then the good news is that also is actually the time of learning. By engaging in games like Go Go, the Wheels Go!, simple exercises for language development, vocabulary building and problem solving skills, and introduction to the concept of counting. Montessori Southern Metropolitan Area is able to help for the formal Civil Literacy Specialist for the same way.

And naturally it is key to continuously provide your child with the essential nutrients, DHA, zinc and Choline to help support the brain development.

Parenting might just be the most difficult job you'll ever have. But if you properly introduce your child through music, play, and harmonize your self, have the right answers at hand, or help ensure that you are helping your child's development. Many things of Montessori 2000 (P 10/02)

Gilbert Sapanoja | JC Online Sapanoja Photography by Louise in San Child Long Beach, CA 2000

Louis, Pat Jazz Child, Growing Mind: A Practical Guide to Brain Development and Learning from Birth to Adolescence. New York: Dutton, 1999.

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# Adventures in texture

From page D1

favorite medium, is itself a strong subject. Mixing fine with coarse reinforced with decorative and marble paste, Ibañez creates tactile protrusions on his canvases that echo the earth's dynamic, often unpredictable, sometimes violent temperament.

This technique is apparent in the show's signature piece "Earthbound" (36"x48") and in "Red Earth" (36"x36"), both reminiscent of the artist's 2002 "Taboo" series, shown in Megamall's Gallery Nine, which paid homage to Benjangqi's *lahar*-ravaged terrain.

In Renaissance Europe, artists were precisely regarded as illusionists whose worth was determined by their abilities to conjure "magical" surfaces on a flat canvas. Pinoña's canvases, even in this context, are visually engaging delight of hand craftsmanship.

The explosive piece when juxtaposed against "Heave" (48"x60"), the other large work in this series, is a study in contrasts and complexity. Pinoña's style compositional range.

The first, vibrant in its gesture, yellow-orange lines, combined with coarse, globular formations, is hectic, almost impatient; but for its symmetric proportions. The second, in sedate blue and aquamarines, is etched with studied consequence; it evokes calmness, appearing like an exotic tapestry, or like the tranquil earth viewed from space.

### Playing with fire

More significantly, however, "Earthbound" may be seen as the unavoidable consequence of Pinoña's current investigative mood. Here his aesthetic similarly evolves as his canvas expands to include metal surfaces. What emerges is a compelling series of images born of fire and metal.

"Disturbed" (24"x24"), an offshoot to the artist's emerging mood here, contains three of his distinct techniques or textures building, where the impasto portion is appropriated for stainless steel.

Three "stainless canvases" are termed by Ibañez owning different chemicals and paint onto the sheets and glazing them with varnish. To achieve the effect, Pinoña spreads countless hours studying how different materials burn and how fire assists material.

Lines serve several purposes in Pinoña's works. Semantically, as in "Pause in Space" 1.2 (48"x48", 24"x24"), they connote a sense of repetitions, geometric delineations that are a necessary ingredient in the artist's organic/social life organic.

But in this initial exploration into meta-inorganic, finer dividing lines also identify territorial boundaries between the natural and the synthetic, and what appears to be the looming convergence of both as shown in "Mist" (36"x36"), a haunting minimalist composition haloed by distinct canvases divided and connected by ephemeral lines.

These lines finally dissolve, almost completely in "Between Spaces" (24"x24"), perhaps signaling what has yet to come.

"Every artist," he says, "must make a commitment to their work."

Shrinkley, although inevitable, is also all temporal to evolution. In "Earthbound," Raul Pinoña, artist almost interrupted, makes a profound commitment to his enthralled surroundings and art.

"Earthbound: New Works by Raul Pinoña" runs June 4-24 in Gallery E, 2/F Ayala Ave., Ayala Triangle, Ayala Center, Makati City. Tel. 815.5960.

# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ronnie G. Yolardo

# Pop goes the superstar

MARIORIS GARCIA, PPS grand champ 2007, is a Zsazsa bankoiba, can/not Regine

By Reuyen Ian Dispo Jr.
Photos by Rudel Reyes

FIRST, THERE WAS PETITE bebot Jonalyn Viray. Then there was fisherman's son Gerald Santos.

On its third year, the GMA 7 talent search "Pinoy Pop Superstar" produced Tourism student Marioris Garcia as champion, besting eight other finalists at the grand showdown held at the Araneta Coliseum on Saturday.

The top four contestants chosen by judges and text voters were Garcia, Jaypee Gatuslao, Miguel Sarmiento and Bryan Termulo. From those nine finalists, the list was further trimmed down to two: lounge chanteuse Garcia and balladeer/ballroom hermano.

The show's regular judges Joya, Danny Tan and Pilar Quiros-in some pinoys' lip-submit mangers Ronnie Henares and network executives Wilma Galvante as finale night.

Galvante told in-person Entertainment that the judges had a "difficult time this year because all of the finalists had great voices and stage presence, and were good-looking." She said Garcia stood out, however, because "she has very good voice quality and is educated, too."

The champ's winning songs were "Beautiful Dancer," "It'll Be Never Said Goodbye" and "One More."

Garcia confessed to the Inquirer that the duet study "One More" enough: "We were all asked to memorize it, but I didn't take it seriously because I wasn't expecting to land in the Top Two."

She was at pins and needles during the showdown. "The song was one key lower than my usual," she explained.

Bathtubs, on the other hand, thought Garcia had it in the bag from the start, though he was the clear crowd favorite at the Big Dome.

Not a few observers have pointed out that

YEAR Overshow Jonalyn Viray, the petite belter

HOST Regine Velasquez in a contest shimmy, too.

FINALISTS, from L, Jun Buenaventura, April Dulce Santos, Bryan, Marvin Esguerra and Miguel Manaquila around Marioris.

BFFAM kisses a stunned Marioris.

TOP TWO Marioris and Bryan return to base.

JUDGES, from L, Ronnie Henares, Wilma Galvante and Ray Quiros, had a hard time choosing this year's winner "because all the finalists were good-looking and talented."

GUEST performer Billy Crawford is hosting a new dance show.

I'd never did Garcia, who has been singing in hotels for the past four years, resembles Zsazsa Padilla. "In the first week of competition, [host] Regine [Velasquez] called me Zsazsa," Garcia recalled. "It's very flattering."

Part of Garcia's winnings are P1 million in cash, a P1.3 million house and lot, plus recording and recording contracts with ZSAZ.

Right after the finale show, runner-up Dimaala was unsure if he would also win a contract with the network.

Galvante, however, told the Inquirer: "Bryan is very outgoing and confident onstage. Both Marioris and Bryan will get net work contracts."

Garcia said she was different from other champs because she didn't "make him" (Bob) all the time. "I want to prove that singing prowess is not measured by the high notes you can hit, that it's about voice quality and a distinct style. I want to be known as a singer who can do both standards and modern songs," she said.

Garcia joined the contest to try her luck, but failed to make the grade three. "I guess now is the right time for me," she said.

Special awards were given to Maranjilla, the viewers' choice, and Jeanne Escalada, best in album performance.

The Saturday show featured homegrown international performer Billy Crawford, who is set to host the new GMA 7 dance competition "Move."

The big question, however, is: Will the three-year-old program finally produce a singer worthy of the "Pinoy Pop Superstar" title, one who will follow in the footsteps of "Tawag ng Tanghalan" champ Piero Asuncion or "Bagong Kampeon" winner Velasquez?

Thus far, the contest's past two winners can't even name close to a Sarah Geronimo or an Erik Santos.

Will Garcia live up to the Superstar legacy? Is she prepared for the big time? Her confidence rep reply: "I'm ready!"

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SATANGGAP MO YUNG RESULTA NG ELECTION?
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WAAA

# Paula Abdul upset about weepy phone call leaked to media

NEW YORK—A LEAKED AUDIO tape in which Paula Abdul can be heard sobbing and lied-to-bed-bing a former spokesman has made its way to the Internet.

In what appears to be a second embarrassing tiff with a group of publishers, the "American Idol" judge rails against Howard Bragman and discusses her various health problems.

The conversation, first reported Thursday by the New York Post's Page Six, has Abdul saying she'd "been going through a tremendous amount of a difficult time" and had "never been treated this way."

Abdul claims Bragman "did more disgusting behavior" by talking to newspapers but when she appeared on ABC's "Disney Channel Star" last month.

Abdul, 44, also says Bragman told her she was "too old" to appear on the cover of the magazine, which has an interview with her in its latest issue.

The lack of respect, she says, "is too much to stomach."

Bragman told The Associated Press on Friday that he had not discussed Abdul's issues choosing the cover because of her age.

He also confirmed a story posted Thursday on celebrity Web site TMZ.com that said Abdul had told him not to attend the Beyond Imaging Awards last June because she was not invited.

Bragman said he received the call and told him where he was.

## Her own show

In a statement posted Thursday on TMZ, the singer-dancer said she was "deeply hurt and extremely disappointed" that the call went public.

"This is my own fault for being so trusting," Abdul said. "While I don't feel a need to justify or explain my conversations, even as a public figure I do feel that my privacy has been violated."

She visibly chose "Hey Paula," premieres June 26 on Bravo. In follows Abdul as she films a new season of Fox network's "American Idol" and develops her own perfume and cosmetics line. The show also promises to show how her lack of sleep makes her loopy.

AP

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# Cinema One nets 5 entries

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AT THE CINEMAS

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 | MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY | | | ZODIAC | | PHANG KITA IBIGIN |
| G4 | PHANG KITA IBIGIN | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN AT WORLD'S END | | | | |
| | SPIDER-MAN 3 | SHREK 3 | | MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY | | ZODIAC |
| GB1 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN AT WORLD'S END | | | PHANG KITA IBIGIN | | |
| GB3 | MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY | | | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN AT WORLD'S END | | |
| | SHREK 3 | | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN AT WORLD'S END | | ZODIAC | |
| ATC | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN AT WORLD'S END | | | MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY | | |
| | PHANG KITA IBIGIN | | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN AT WORLD'S END | | ZODIAC | |
| ACC | MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY | PHANG KITA IBIGIN | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN AT WORLD'S END | | SHREK 3 | |
| M2 | PHANG KITA IBIGIN | | MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY | | | |
| | SHREK 3 | | ZODIAC | | | |

At the Activity Center

| GLORIETTA | TOWN |
|---|---|
| The Philippine Star's Ani-A-Rama June 2, 2007 | Fitness at the Town: Free aerobicizing & weight training with trainers at Center On Lee Terrace & Town Plaza June 1 to 10, 2007 |
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# Ai-Ai's goal: Give Beyonce a run for her money

AI-AI DE LAS ALAS HAS EVERY REASON TO be proud of her traffic-stopping body followed wherever she goes.

Seeing how sexy Ai-Ai has become after successfully losing [illegible] pounds, I'm compelled to ask her: How does she do it?

Ai-Ai: [illegible] Albuquerque [illegible]

Ai-Ai is a born giver. Even during her struggling years, she always could be counted on.

### Future bride

Luis Manzano is the new widower of Herbal. It seems it's ready to cast the hypnotic eye for [illegible]

We'll have Hilda pose in the [illegible]

Instead him about it. He smiled, saying, 'Sana' and I agreed, that if we can still single in a couple of years and we don't have special people in our lives, we still get married."

### Break time

Lea Salonga's crazy hip Mendo turned: I [illegible] to Hive "link. The grand slamin reports, "Sh-boom time Clamor-mania at Baby Pool, there a Bus it, Jury's ice cream cake for dessert. It was a case-day-fal'on all aspects!"

The world's fun-talent and super mom knows when to have fun and when to take things seriously. Lea's blog-mate's below ought to be a wake-up call to [illegible]

### Perception

"Show business can be a business of perception. It's funch like saying to the world that you are and in the video to [illegible]

"It's magic, with plenty of smoke and mirrors. It's adorable [illegible], details, makeup artists and handlemen. It's a lot of things that have nothing to do with talent, drive, total [illegible], work, hard work and perseverance.

"Sounds discouraging, doesn't it? It doesn't have to be. I'm one of the old fogies who feel that at the core of it all, under the smoke and great lighting, isn't talent, drive and nutrition rule over everything. It's what determines an artist's longevity.

"It's frustrating when I find that the more talented folks don't get as many breaks as those who have a bunch of their gibs. It's cruel and unfair. However, I have faith in audiences ... that [illegible] they pick those who are deserving of the attention and refrain."

### Teen diary

ABS-CBN's teen-oriented show "Ala Eh Loo (Lo La)" now airs every Saturday after "Pinoy Dream Academy." Vietor Basa and Carla Humphries are being groomed in the series as [illegible] a romantic subplot with Carla despite [illegible] more than Victor is gay. "Maybe some girls and guys are just frustrated that they can't have Victor Basa's sexy [illegible]," he says.

Victor ought to start rumoring with the way Carla rotates [illegible]

**Sara turns 21**

Sara Miller has just turned 21 and he can only be thankful. Despite the many publicity that comes with fame, "I know I cannot please everyone, but why should I dwell on the negative when there is so much to be grateful for?"

There's really "SAM" thing about her!

E-mail: sara-nightshadesgmail@yahoo.com

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# Smitten by beauty queen

By Jarrick Adlaw

JUST OUT OF A SUPPORT RO-mance with "Pinoy Dream Academy" scholar Irish Fullerton that ended in futility, singer Mark Bautista is now openly pursuing a new girl.

At a press conference for a clothing line he is endorsing, the 20-year-old crooner told reporters Entertainment is to confirm by Miss Justice, Canada's representative to the 2006 Miss Earth pageant and recipient of the contest's Miss Photogenic award.

During the launch of his own, groups for Le Frogg at CityMall in Quezon City on Thursday, Mark admitted it was not exactly a case of love at first sight. But, he said, he was immediately attracted to the Filipino-Canadian when he first saw her on television, during the Miss Earth pageant held there last November. He did not get to see the girl in person at that time.

But when Rizk held [illegible] "that he's a Mark" shortest South Governor in Laos do shortly after, he finally met Rizz and instantly decided he should get to know her better.

"I asked around for her contact numbers, and then called her," Mark recounted. And when he learned that Rizz was planning to spend summer in the Philippines, he told the 20-year-old television reporter to look him up when she got here.

Last month, Rizz arrived in Manila with her family. But when she got in touch with Mark, she asked about his rumored relationship with Irish. She had apparently learned about it from reports posted in his website www.markbautista.com.

After Mark expressed to her that his and the Filipino-American singer-actress had a thing going and that, in fact, they were "just friends," Rizz agreed to go out with him.

Nina Hernandez recalls, so I took her to Starbucks, to the Park, had dinner in a Japanese restaurant..." Mark said. Both being Christians, they also went to the Parish Christian Church together.

Mark became Rizz's Filipino parents and has likewise introduced Rizz to his "My parents like her, and I think Rizz's folks like me, too," he added.

And despite no evidence to confirm romantic...Rizz does not speak Filipino and Mark is not that good in English, Mark said, "We're both happy when we're together." But he quickly clarified, "There's no commitment yet. It's too early for that."

Rizz has gone back home to Canada, but not before promising Mark she will return in July.

"She will stay for a year and try to find a career in media," Mark revealed. "If she likes it here, she may stay longer."

While Mark waits for July, he will be busy with a Valentine concert tour with Sarah Geronimo.

And when Rizz finally comes back, Mark will surprise her with his very first billboard, along links that his fans, both his fashion endorsements and his third [illegible] album, "Every Hour and Then" under Viva Records.

"Having a billboard is something big for any artist. I never thought my career would come to this point," he said. And of course he wanted to share that with Rizz.

MARK BAUTISTA

MISS Earth-Canada Rizz Sereno

# Cinema One nets 5 entries

By Mabuhay Cruz

A DRAMA ON LOSING AND OBESITY, A dark comedy about a filmmaker and a politician, a film tackling homosexual issues, a love-hating story of a reporter in a haunted mansion, and two brothers' struggle with "depression" are the fates of this year's Cinema One Originals Digital Film Festival.

Five digital films were chosen from among 128 entries that entered the festival's Sang Kumunoy ng Pinoy sa Buong Mundo.

The selection was initially cut down to 22 semi-finalists, which went through seven-hour screenings.

Lawrence Fajardo's "Sa Dilim" is about an OFW newly coming her daughter, and a child battling with narcolepsy and obesity. Fajardo participated in last year's competition with his "Balot at Bunny."

"Confessional," a collaborative effort of commercial director Noel Sariquiano and musical composer Jewish Tiang ("Kubrador," "Mumbaker"), tells of the experiences of a small-time filmmaker who witnesses a life-changing confession from a retired politician.

"Making Alaska" is a romantic-comedy on homosexual issues by Veronica Velasco and Pablo Baldivia-Cruz, who also teamed up to create last year's "Sanay Sayo" film, starring Marivel Soriano.

Rico Maria Dimilo's "Atlas" is a family-ing adventure of a retired boxer wrestling

ENTERTAINMENT

# Mark Meily names 'new Dolphy'

## Award-winning director's pick for update on Brocka classic is ... Michael V

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

DUBBING IT HOW AWARD-winning director Mark Meily describes his latest project, an update on the Lino Brocka classic, "Nasaan Ka Nang Kailangan Kita" (Where Were You When I Needed You). After all, the 1978 movie by the untiring Filipino filmmaker cop-billed Comedy King Dolphy and Nora Aunor, the child superstar at the time.

The landmark film was remembered fondly.

Its executive "I watched it at the Lyric Theater when I was 11. It was my first exposure to Brocka. I was too young to appreciate [Ino] Manzala as mga Kuh-ng Lowenag sa Tsernobyl Ko Ngunit' Kuhng.' I will never forget how Lino was one of the superstars were between Dolphy and Nida. You had to be dead not to cry."

MICHAEL V

### Same concept

Now that he is a filmmaker himself, Meily is fascinated with "the idea that 'Tessy' was sold as a comedy when, in fact, it was a heart-wrenching drama." He sees parallels with "Crying Ladies" and "La Vita Loca"—followed that very concept as family dramas with equal servings of humor and pathos.

Meily accepted the "Tessy" update, which he retitled "Mommy Ko Si Daddy" Like "Ladies" and "Loca," "Daddy" will be produced by Unitel Productions.

"Rather than remake a classic, we are using the same premises and applying it to a contemporary situation," he explains. "The romance thread in the story of a gay man taking care of a child, subjects he grasps [easily] now."

### Changes

But Meily has tamed the Nida character into a gal, who is also the gay man's best friend. "I have two children of openly gay parents. There is no more effort to hide [the parents'] sexuality."

Meily asserts that his movie's theme is "parenthood — that product is not what determines good parenting ... that being single or married is also a [non-]issue." Of course, he adds, hoping not: parents is ideal, "but that doesn't automatically guarantee ... effective parenthood."

### Real people

Meily takes pains not to present stereotypical, one-dimensional characters, gay or straight.

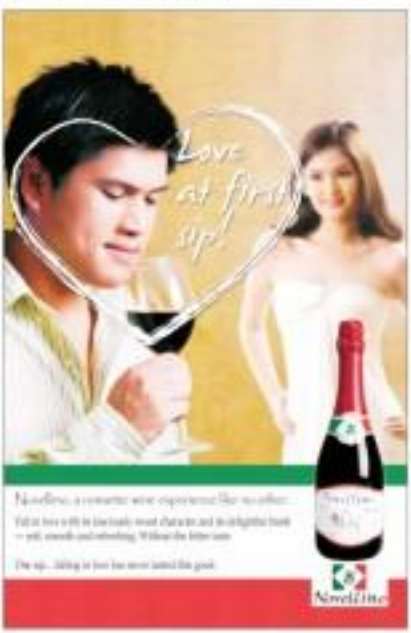
"The characters are based on real people," he points out. "The gay lives or someone you know. We have context and a healthy love life. So's the modern gay life doesn't get involved on because up for losing [an] life

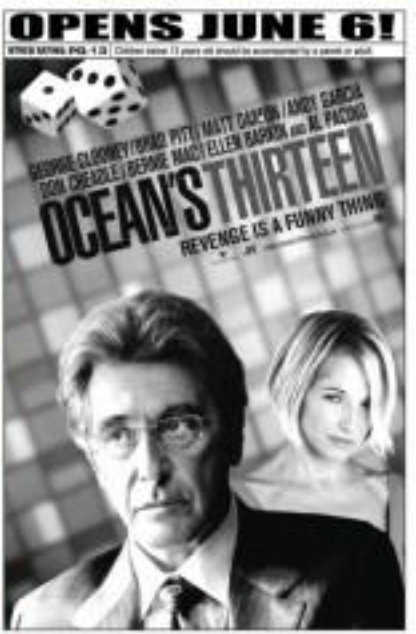
Recording Studio, but I'm excited. She wrote all the lyrics, which are friend and long-time collaborator Sen Garcia set to music.

"Uplifting[music]" will be launched this week I'm here in, in a concert titled "Time and Transformation" at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City, she will sing three of the songs.

With Tessie Tomas as co-host and Fleet Quintero as director, Timmy will host the five-concert organized by the Araneta Inc. to celebrate 25 years of global service.

TIMMY CRUZ



# ENTERTA

## Contestant wins game show jackpot

LIGHTMAN 27 SEPTEMBER, GMA

off a new game show "Ta
hosted by Paolo Bedrosia. N
to see value to lead to offer ri
we were hooked) says reduce
over a bit million Dasko on
first relevant.

Prty to go—or lured in
newly confirmed fans
And it sure made for a big,
bountiful brunch for the
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But, what if
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court?

While the first wheeze
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number of wrinkles and gl
should be quickly erased
sioner's prospects to improv

First, its celebrity guest
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pears to be jerky and ir
but some of the celebrities
the contestants' ex-play
show's first to injure some
idolatrous end "TK."

They called too much a
themselves and shirked the
can away from the co
where is properly belonging

Worse, some celebrity
rushed the wide-eyed cont
with wrong answers, whic
of them from progressing
competitions. Celebrity
should be reminded th
there for the contestants, n
to mess around.

Another glitch is the sh
easy diamonds to push up th
easy and appeal.

This is a basic-ish rim
on local TV, but isn't appe
Tok, Tok, Tok," because
at 7 p.m., which is Dad's
sweet answers, as I called h

Also, note that all th
lacks were unduly dramatic,
guess that the show is aim
but I do foresee its ratings
string dancers don't dazz
brands and barely improvis

**Face Facts**

Besides, credit to tall, th
are giddy and silly and
music premium have bee
cliches on TV Can't say
people think of more ori
crowner ways to unseat cu

Third, the show makes g
regimented game numbers
dances. He's rewarded to p
hosting and spontaneous re
dress after seeing him in
music modes in his previous

On the plus side, some of
show's challenges are ge
spring, and there's certain
pleasure in seeing guest c
give a tough time as the
first" contestant on
game.

The contestants themse
still sincere because they'
in need of a boonness in the
their desire to win is gen
goodly empathetic.

So, my rim rec "Tok,
created by coming into th
fun game show with loads
offer.

But before that, it should
needs to be adjusted. Cha
celebrity guests, radically

## Tama movie

TOKYO—HAPPY TAMA
ido set for a new life as sh
and film character spokesp

The egg-shaped Tamag
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bred is used about an after
popular after its 2007
Bandai Co. now called
Bandai Holdings Inc.

More than 4 million ar
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now introduced by Bandai
and more on demand.

In the movie, set to com
of the Tamagotchi characte
who dress up as aliens hun

"The Tamagotchi in the
in their own right, and
love for people to see
moving and telling
spokesman Sano said.

The movie will be distri

# t bonanza

### 'Minutes to Midnight'

Linkin Park's new CD, "Minutes to Midnight," debuted at No. 1 on all Music-One Industries. It's also leading it over the music charts in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore and Korea. The new album is described as a breakthrough for the band. Producer Rick Rubin observes, "It doesn't sound like rap-rock, there's strong songwriting—it's very melodic."

### 'Year love'

There's a new version of Moonbli's hit song, "Year Love," an acoustic session that the band performs on its unpublished sessions. It's part of a compilation album, "Back Grooves in Indivisor Music." Other tracks are performed by Moonstar 88, Hyphen, Audiobahn, Kenwan Chemistry and other edge groups.

### 'Mahira Matibay'

The best-loved songs of Pamboy and Edgar have been compiled in "Mahira Matibay" which has been released in three formats—CD, VCD and DVD. There are 19 songs, including "Mwat wala Ko Iwan," "Hoka Ho," "Mahuro," "Year Day Funk," "Bagsakan," "Gimo," "Sorry Na" and "Hatsun."

### Feedback

From Inocencio K. Pagsa of Makati City: "Young couples should be trained in the vulnerable, impressionable children they are: "They should not be bombarded with disturbing images like scantily-clad dancers passing on [illegible] shows, night numbers, [illegible] about [illegible] pregnancy and dating marriage as just a piece of paper, and whatever full of violent action, revenge, evil plots and physical and psychological torture. "Studies [illegible] and [illegible] should be reminded that television is a [illegible] General Patronage' medium, [illegible] about [illegible] watching most of the time. So, guys, you should [illegible] to telecast images and [illegible] that they are equipped to handle."

## gotchi debut

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3 SHREK 3
4 PHANO KITA IBIGAY!

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2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 SHREK 3
4 LUCKY YOU
5 PHANO KITA IBIGAY!

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1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PHANO KITA IBIGAY!
3 THE LAST MIMZY
4 SHREK 3
5 FIREHOUSE DOG

DASMARINAS

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2 PHANO KITA IBIGAY!
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
5 SHREK 3

ANGELES

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 PHANO KITA IBIGAY!

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1 FRACTURE
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 PREMONITION
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
5 PHANO KITA IBIGAY!
6 SHREK 3

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2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 PHANO KITA IBIGAY!
5 PHANO KITA IBIGAY!
6 28 WEEKS LATER

BACOLOD

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PHANO KITA IBIGAY!
3 RESERVE
4 SHREK 3
5 FIREHOUSE DOG
6 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2

ILOILO

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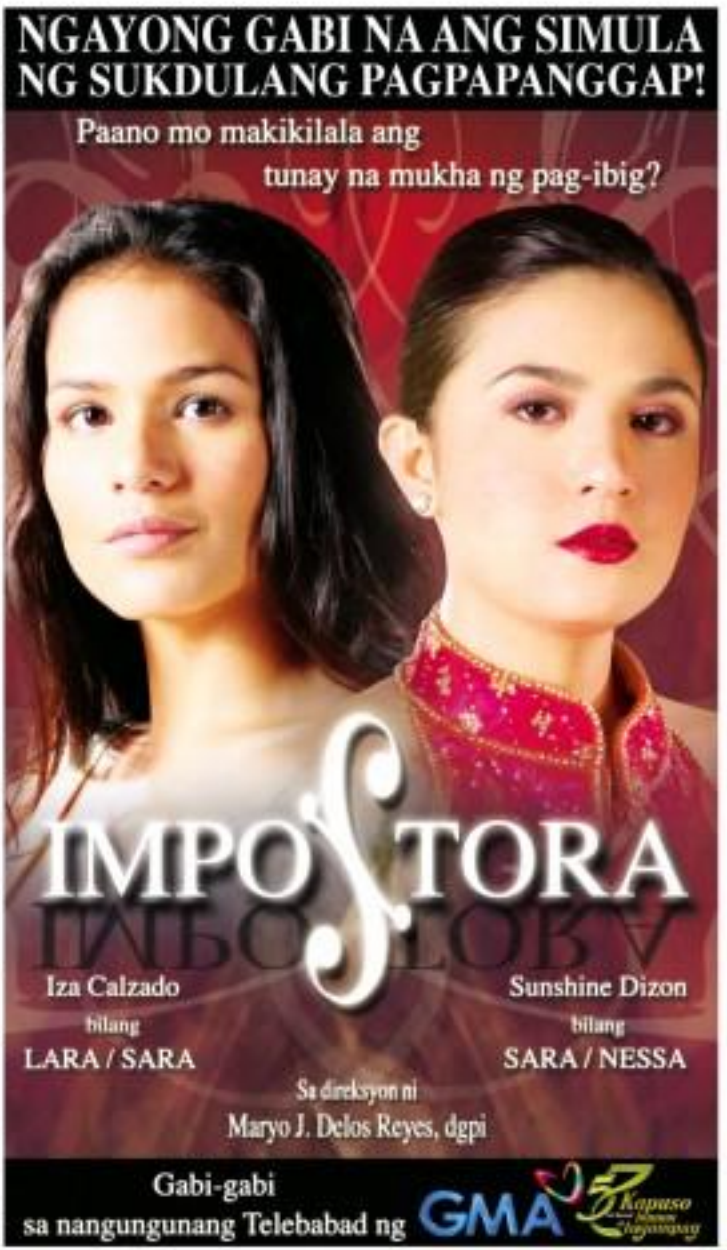
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